EAST BAY EXPRESS

DECEMBER 29 2010 JANUARY 4 2011 EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

10 BEST MOVIES OF 2010

It was an off year except in the Land Down Under By Kelly Vance

ECO WATCH 11

FROM DISEASE TO GREEN

Amyris turns sugar cane into biofuel

NEWS 13

DRUG ADDICTS UNITE!

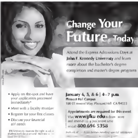
An Oakland-based group of methadone users has formed a political lobbying union By [illegible]

Dozens of Oakland-based hepatitis-C patients and their providers gathered outside the office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. They were bearing a petition with 4,000 signatures supporting the continuation of Drug Medi-Cal, a program that funds substance abuse treatment services for California's poor. But this was no typical demonstration. The protesters included drug addicts, a group not usually prone to mounting political campaigns. Galvanized by the protest, the demonstrators decided to form their own political lobbying union representing a notorious underclass: drug users. *Story inside*

NEWS 14

KEEPING GOATS IN OAKLAND

Can they transform neighborhoods?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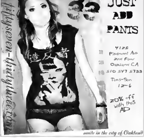
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CONTENTS

NEWS OPINION

4 **Letters** Our favorite letters of the year
9 **Seven Days** Oakland funds ballpark study
10 **Legalization Nation** The year in Legalization Nation.
11 **Eco Watch** From disease to green.
13 **News** Drug addicts unite!
14 **News** Keeping goats in Oakland
15 **Feature** Ten best movies of 2010

NEW YEAR'S EVE

19 **New Year's Eve & Day Listings**

ARTS CULTURE

20 **Culture Spy** Birdland Jazz Club and Mulls Café Grill.
21 **Event & Attraction Listings** Paul Mooney at Black Repertory Theater
22 **Museums & Galleries** *Painters x 3* at San Pablo Art Gallery and *Dymess/Belt* at Subterranean Arthouse.
24 **Theater & Dance Listings** *I'm Here All Week* by Nick Flanagan.
Lectures & Literary Listings Mystery Reading Group at Castro Valley Library
Body & Soul Listings Eight Lessons in Eating for Health and Vitality lecture series at Bauman College of Holistic Nutrition and Culinary Arts.
28 **Aquarium Age**

FOOD DRINK

29 **Dining Review** The Sunny Side Café
30 **Restaurants & Cafes**
32 **Wineau** Of Mountains and Memory
33 **Food & Wine Listings**

MOVIES

35 **Movie Review** *Red Hill*, *Somewhere* and *The Company Men*.
35 **Movie Listings**
38 **One-Night Stands**

MUSIC

39 **Finish Ticket** At Rickshaw Stop.
40 **Demo** At Bottom of the Hill
42 **CD Reviews** Daft Punk, Marcus Shelby Orchestra and Steve Wynn and the Miracle 3.
42 **Local Licks** Silvestre Martinez, Keak Da Sneak, Festino, and Dave Dub & the Sutter Cain Gang
44 **Concerts & Club Listings**
50 **DJ & Dance Listings**
53 **Savage Love**

On the Cover *(From top left)*: The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest, Animal Kingdom, Carlos, Mother, True Grit, 14-18 The Noise and the Fury, The Social Network, Winter's Bone, The Square, The Kids Are All Right, The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played With Fire.

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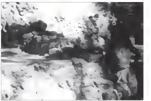

This photo accompanied Teo Matthews' letter with the caption "The Lioness near her den"

LETTERS

Editor's Note

Each year we compile some of the memorable letters, phone calls, and press releases we received during the prior twelve months. In the interest of verisimilitude, all spelling, punctuation, and grammar are the writers' own.

What a Picture Is Worth

Re: 3/10/10 issue, page 54

My life seemed slow, plodding, anxious, dull and almost impossible to become comfortable with. Yet I was getting used to it being lackluster, loveless, isolated, even quietly desperate at times. But oh no! no you, the Express had to go and startle me, shake me, disturb me and I did awaken, somehow unreluctantly. Thumbing through the 3/10 issue, I grumbled audibly about "those wretches," tiresome BIG DEVELOPERS posing as Green Corridor advocates with their riparian reveries and their downtown make-over fantasies. How come nobody knows the difference between the good guys and the bad guys here, I complained openly. And then I got to page 54, falling silently still while nothing around me mattered too much at all. The "1R" bus snorted up to me to board and then hurtled down Telegraph like an 18 wheeler on a cross country run, competing for lane space with several aggressive outlaw Harleys. So what. It was just me and the paper. Only, I was gazing down dreamily into the enchanting face of Michael Monroe, knowing that a picture (especially a good one) is worth a thousand words. I read and re-read... the accompanying article by D.G. ck Rubio and realized that pathetically I had picked up the paper too late in the week to go and see his music in San Francisco! However, the heart of the sleeping lioness has been stirred, quickened, and she cannot rest while that stunning cougar Monroe still roams the sweeping landscape. I mean, CRIKEY!! lets move in slowly and carefully and have a closer look, shall we?

Teo Matthews

RE. 19

UP YOUR ASS! !
Bunch of junkys.
NO on Propostion # 19

Pedro Rojas

Thought Policed

Two well documented acts of state-sponsored terrorism have occurred twice in Ohio within a year, yet the perpetrators have yet to see justice, and few media outlets have yet to report on it despite massive amounts of solid evidence.

I have an audio recording of the owner of a home surveillance store in Columbus, Al Smith, who said that he signed an affidavit for a woman who had a brain implant in her head after looking at her x-rays and testing for radio frequencies. The audio interview is available for free at www.chadlester.com under my

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

Why shop at local, independent businesses this holiday season?

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Shape Our Character!

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Independent, community-serving businesses are people-sized. They consume less land, carry more locally-made products, locate closer to residents and create less traffic and air pollution.

Lower Taxes!

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To: Your Community
From: You

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blog, at the link "The Thought Police are Real in 2009." I also have a half hour interview with Jeff Stibel Chairman of Braingate a company which makes brain implants. He confirms that this technology exists.

I have also posted several x-rays that clearly show the implant on the frontal lobe of one of the individuals. Both individuals stated that they were thought policed, with voices injected into their heads with the implants. Efforts were then made to declare the individuals mentally unfit to stand trial because of their assertions.

I know one of them personally as a well known and respected scholar in the Athens Ohio area. He continues to try to get his doctors to admit there is an object on his frontal lobe pointing to it on the x rays that you can see at www.chadkister.com but his doctors have been given National Security Letters and all they say is that everything looks normal. You can see the x ray compared to an x ray of a brain without a microchip and you can clearly see the difference.

I need some x ray technicians to step forward and contact me that there is an object in the x ray. We also desperately need independent investigative reporters, either at newspapers or as personal projects for the protection of our civil liberties to look into this major violation of civil liberties. While there is no question that this technology exists the scant media coverage about brain implants has allowed its abuse to go on unnoticed.

Such abuses will only get worse and harder to detect with nanotechnology that is making miniaturized electronics and brain computer interface technology that is connecting these devices to people's brains.

Chad Kister

Desperately Seeking Doc

Hi my name is Mayling and I am looking for a voodoo doctor to help me. My ex boyfriend is casting spell over spell on me. please help me if you know of any voodoo doctor in the east bay. thank you

Mayling Rivera

I Thirst Convenient Evenings

Hello! How are you? You would like to communicate with me? To me of 28 years and my name Victoriya. I from Russia city Kazan. I pass love in my life, and I wish to find it! I am a unique girl, good, attractive, intellectual, active and quiet, but lonely... I believe that I deserve happiness as any person. How you think, that the most important in this life? I believe that you will agree with me, that the LOVE is that we search for all... I shall aspire to do my person happy. I thirst convenient evenings together where we embrace on a sofa and to speak words about love whisper. I have many interests in a life, as reading, cookery, dialogue with friends, visiting new places and I investigate all new. I search for the responsible person, the one who can show me wisdom, love and attention which he has.

If you wish to study me better I shall wait for your letter on mine e-mail: victoriyabaltunna@rambler.ru

If you will write to me I with pleasure shall answer all your questions as something inside speaks me that something big and beautiful can grow between us..

Have a good time!

Victoriya

Representing the People

My name is Ransom Millar, and I'm an independent write-in candidate for governor of California.

I believe that the platform of my campaign is unique in that I wish to be a strictly representative governor who consults and obeys the people on every issue. This is how many of our Revolutionary forefathers intended politics to work, as simply an extension of the people at large, and fully subject to their oversight and judgment. Our founders were outspokenly opposed to the perpetuation of political parties and factions such as persist today.

I live in San Jose, where I bag groceries for a living, and I'm writing a history book covering much of the American Revolution and the development of democracy. I have researched the roots of democracy, liberty, and human rights and I find today's politicians to be in many respects unfaithful to that legacy.

One reform I am proposing to the citizenry is the abolition of the state senate and of the governor's office itself, leaving instead a unicameral assembly and a plural executive, often lacking veto powers. This reform would remove the British monarchism and aristocracy which wealthy elites imposed on our government by trickery and coercion, and would be cheaper and more transparent than our present system.

In a state as large and populous as ours, it is to the media we must look to keep people informed of their options not only in legislation but in elections. Otherwise we are at the mercy of whoever can afford to purchase publicity.

I am a candidate who does not look down on the people, who instead looks up to them as the true and rightful governors of California.

Yours for Freedom

Ransom Campbell Millar, San Jose
www.MillarCalifornia.org

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Anonymous

Streets Lined with Leather

Greetings. I'm originally from Brooklyn, NY and have been making the transition of living in Oakland while helping a friend build a business. Forgive me if I'm making a mountain out of a molehill but my work ethic in service oriented business for nearly four decades has been to always keep the customers happy and not only will you get repeat business, but more from word of mouth referrals. I recently visited Ike's shoe repair on Lake Shore Drive (I believe is the name of the Street) in Oakland to have a sheath made for a broken car key; the key still works but it won't hang on a key ring; it has a computer chip built into it and therefore cost a minimum of $85.00 to replace.

A fabric sheath has been working fine but they eventually shred from handling, hence I came up the brainstorm of a shoemaker's machine which rounds corners and as old fabricate a leather sheath in thirty seconds. There started my rude awakening, when I asked the clerk to make a leather sheath for said key he looked at me as if he didn't understand (he appeared to be of Chinese ethnicity). In frustration I asked if he sold pieces of leather to make a pair; this he understood and brought out a piece the size I could use and sold it to me for $1.00 (one U.S. Dollar) which I should have been happy with. But I know from experience you need special needles to properly stitch leather. It took me nearly an hour to stitch said sheath with conventional needle and thread, and it certainly came out looking good (my scout master would have been proud of me!), however experience tells me it would have been perfect if stitched by machine and I was disturbed that this fellow would turn away business.

His quote to me was that he didn't want that type of business, therefore I presumed he didn't understand me as I would have gladly paid $10.00 to $20.00 for the job as I wanted which I'm sure would not have taken more than five minutes tops with the right tools. I was compelled to return and show him the finished product and what he could have charged. In the interim while regular customers came in for service I would stand to the side to not interrupt his flow of business and then resume our dialogue, which lasted about ten minutes total between customers.

It was then I realized between customers why he would refuse a paltry $20.00 for five minutes work: customer #1 needed half soles only on ladies shoes $45.00; customer #2 needed a shoulder strap on a ladies bag repaired, price $40.00; final customer needed half soles and heels on ladies high heel shoes (those tiny little heels) price $60.00. It was then this fellow reminded me of an old joke about immigrants coming to the U.S. as the land of prosperity and because the streets were lined with gold: well this one fellow was headed toward the baggage claim area and saw a $100.00 dollar bill on the floor, he began to pick it up, stopped, and then proclaimed he would start working tomorrow! I thought right in refusal of service was only for unruly customers, not to pick and choose what is only beneficial to the merchant. If you agree with me perhaps you'll do a story on this prosperous merchant to deflect business to his accommodating competition or maybe even inspire someone to go into that specialty business as the owner of fins acknowledged that some of those keys cost up to $300.00 only to confuse me more knowing that he realizes the value but still turns the business away "GO FIGURE!" anyway thanks for your time and allowing me to blow off steam. You can have access to my key if you decide to run a story on it! (It's a real beaut!)

Louis Santiago

Satan's Minions

Salamun alaykum,

Peace be upon you.

This is the dream of the righteous finally realized. The kingdom of God is arriving very soon. However it starts with a devastating earthquake to hit San Francisco on the 9th of November 2010.

Jesus prophesied the coming of the kingdom through a messenger by the name of "Ahmad".

I Ahmad Nishioka a 33 year-old half Egyptian half Japanese man, was inspired by God of the details of a prophecy in the final scripture, Quran: a huge earthquake that will hit the hub of transgression San Francisco on 11/9 to usher in the birth of the kingdom of Heaven.

But why America? America is the most important community of our times. Unfortunately Satan has been using it as a tool to further his plan of world domination and to establish his rule on Earth. It turns out that 911 and the ensuing wars are nothing but a final step along that scheme.

However God won't leave the sincere around the world without supporting them against Satan's schemes.

The prophecy of the final scripture, Quran talks about a respite God gave Satan in which Satan tries to prove his point that the creatures (e.g. money, material things, people) can function, harm and benefit on their own. This polytheistic view of the world is what has led to its current miserable state.

Through unjust wars and terror, unprecedented inequality and monopoly on the world's riches and resources, the control of governance by Satan's minions everywhere has ravished the planet.

The respite of Satan as a temporary ruler on Earth will come to an end on November 9, 2010. This is proven by a hidden numerical code in the final testament, Quran. The code is based on the number 19, which is God's signature on the scripture and on the universe (1 and 9, first and last numbers, proclaim that God is the Alpha and Omega).

The miraculous mathematical structure of Quran is based on this single prime number 19. That miracle was revealed in America in 1974, through a messenger, Rashad Khalifa. He was the messenger of the covenant mentioned in Malachi (3:1-3).

Rashad proclaimed that the miracle of Quran has finally purified it from two false verses, which were added to glorify the prophet Muhammad. The miracle also confirmed the divine authorship of the rest of Quran, letter by letter.

Moreover Rashad Khalifa proclaimed that the Muslims have deviated en masse by idolizing the final prophet Muhammad and following the fabricated books of Hadith instead of Quran alone. Some ignorant Muslims later killed him in 1990 for delivering that message which exposed their idol worship.

The conspiracy of making the followers of a messenger idolize him is nothing new. Millions before have idolized Jesus, who was just a human messenger and prophet sent by God with the Gospel to restore the religion back to "Submission to God alone" instead of following false, man-made teachings other than the scripture of God, the Torah.

So basically Satan's creed is built upon idolizing people and things, venerating and devoting oneself to them, either through extreme fear or love. Thus Satan wants our focus to shift from God to anything and or anybody else.

Why would a bunch of humans on a boat fight together when they are supposed to have the same destination? It is but the evil powerless Satan who wrecked the boat and is about to destroy it completely along with his followers. However God has the best plan: the corrupt captain of the boat, Satan, will be toppled and the righteous God-reverencing humans will take over and inherit the rule of the Earth, so that the boat of Humanity can sail again safely and peacefully under the leadership of the one Creator God.

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around the world, the event of 11.9.2010, will announce the demise of Satan and his followers as rulers of the planet. the temporary respite of Satan will end, and we shall no longer see the corrupt in positions of power, dominating and manipulating the people as they wished. They were only allowed to do so, within limits and for a specific interim, which will be over very soon.

Also, this event will serve as a perpetual warning for the wicked until the Day of Judgment which is coming in 2280 AD (Rashad Khalifa delivered this proven data).

The new era of righteousness will begin with a terrible disaster of biblical proportions, just like in the days of Lot, when the city was destroyed before they could start over again on new righteous foundations based on reality, and not on illusion like the world we have experienced so far under Satan's rule, but of course God was, is and will always be the ultimate Ruler.

This disaster that will hit America on the morning of 11.9.2010 will be a marker for the start of a new global kingdom of righteousness called "United Submitters Nation". The Submitters are those who submit and devote themselves absolutely to God alone. I hope you are one of them.

You can find the details of the prophecy and its proof on the following link usn2161.net, under a summary of the prophecy check this pdf file:

http://www.usn2161.net/quake119.pdf

Ahmad Nahbeba Firas
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Wake Up People

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Ed Nemechek, Landers, CA

Word from Jesus

1915 – 1.8 Billion people
2010 – 6.8 Billion people.
Past 95 years – 5 Billion people.
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Jesus Christ, Havre de Grace, MD

None Will Argue My Points

Finding SSA Bullshit as I taking a bite out of Mexican Cartels...one "Dum-MF" at a time)

...have SSA Case in front of 08-3789 in front of Magistrate Laurel Beeler as Oral hearing set for 7/1/10 per US Atty, as I'm in Pro Se... ...The reason I'm in Pro Se after "5+ years" of this, ("had" Disability Attorney per Physical Disability claim but all bets at this point) is that no SSA Attorney's have the legal chops to take it as far as I have nor will argue the points I have brought up...(so I will fax to you right after this at 879 3794). ...the gist of my arguments is having seen "1st hand" in Oakland for about a year is that "plausibility" of "50?" souls in S.F./Oakland/Berkeley proper (well "conservatively") on SSI that go off on a binge of one kind or another as drug of choice in "Urban areas" is, "Crack" then California with "500?" souls, U.S. with "5000?" (conservatively) at est "$800? a pop" per person/check/month DO THE MATH backwards 15 years on waste already & then forward ahead 15 years... as Mexican Cartels thugs do the same math knowing the US helps underwrite the very activity the US & Mexican governments are trying to "crack" down on as one of the most "insidious transfers of wealth" comprehended as let US Attorney's Office made aware a "YEAR AGO" but is doing nothing, is either complicit or negligent but they rather "triage?" my case through SSA labyrinth hell for years instead... ...on 4/22, Joseph Russoniello was on TV talking with Governor about "cracking down?" on Mexican Cartels as told Court, "a Joke" besides local resources from EMS, (Oakland had 45,000 EMS/ambulatory calls one year but don't chart or track if they are on receiving end on SSI as well to report) Police disturbance calls etcs & since "unimpeded" as these souls go through their checks like "shit through a goose"... ..."Shelter Hoppers" have been created as they know the system better than most especially the part that the Shelter (or Transitional House) doesn't have to report them there & while there they are protected...as I have asked the Court to Order Oakland responders & caretakers after the fact to "Start" recording these encounters with the intent to transfer the wealth back to "Adult Orphanages" so that by sex/race/age, & per "combined maladies" of Mental "and or" Substance Abuse, "and or" Criminal backgrounds these areas can be addressed "directly" saving the tax payer money...(wonder what the "bread-basket" of America, the "majority" that have payed into system think about this scenario going on for "Years?") & helping these souls at same time ...also what come out of this was a need for a "Homeless Bill of Rights" from emergency responses like Katrina to the "daily need" to keep folks from hurting themselves therefore society & the neighborhoods of which they live... ...while rural areas have "Meth" to do with, Urban resources mentioned above taken the hit as with Oakland PD looking at layoffs, (that wouldn't have to happen to same scale if my ideas implemented) & recent news of killings just south of our border in a 24 hour period on in News, (so crack users/addicts/dealers responsible for these deaths? can we link? "YES!" but also US Attorney's Offices by doing "NOTHING!"...). ...we have better tracking in this Country for Cattle & Toilet paper but with Judge Beeler having spent 14 years in US Atty's Office than another question will she out her own?...(maybe didn't help that I said I would go after US Atty's Offices "throughout" US like, "shit through a Goose?"...). ...8/15/07 I was featured in a Sunday Front Page Oakland Tribune, "Will Work for Self" as to the tribulations of dealing with the Dept. of Rehabilitation, (DOR), but..."nothing?" came out of that...no indignation letters to the Editor...(even though "8-Million Californians" with some form of Disability & growing as "Largest Voting Block" & can affect "any election" if even organized...but DOR only serves "4%?" of this population in California) ...Will (and would love to expand on all above) need your help to expose (SFChronicle "week" & see above on Tribune), as hoping this will begin a huge "behavior modification" of Courts, Congress & individuals, and a wake up call to Cong. Lee & Mayor Dellums & the like as I guess since "constituents?" then can't say "no-on stop" as votes lost...so they can keep up doing a magnificent job

John Coleman, Alameda

Am I Crazy?

I don't frequently make a post and I like just watchin but I found this turkey fryer and thought am I missing something. I thought these are typically marked around $440 – $550. I was hoping a board member here could help and let me know if I am missing something. Its a 9 Gallon Fryer. Less than $350 greenbacks and FREE SHIPPING! Am I crazy?

Infonellen, Switzerland

Yodeling at McDonalds

Wouldn't you say that it's a sign that you are out of your mind when you start yodeling at McDonalds. They should pull that commercial off the air and put that guy in the psych ward before it becomes a movement and a national security risk. What if everybody starts yodeling at McDonalds? It would be worse than zombies, worse than night of the living dead. It would certainly be worse than panty raids and men stealing women's underwear.

I tried to yodel and before I knew it I was issuing out of control vocal utterances and almost shot my pants. Think of the damage I could do if I was good at it. What if the yodeling at McDonalds commercial was a sinister training tape to teach people how to be insane at fast food restaurants?

I think instead of flu shots they should make everyone go to the gymnasium at the local high school and administer a lie detector test. At least two of the questions should be did you kill your parents and do you yodel at McDonalds. They should have armed guards at McDonalds ready with Thorazine in case someone starts yodeling.

In short I think yodeling at McDonalds is a new euphemism for insanity. Don't be surprised if the next time you visit your shrink he says dude I think you're yodeling at McDonalds and need to make a visit to the hospital.

Brian Schwartz, Davenport IA

Looking for Adults

Where can I find the adult listings (strip clubs, adult stores, and porn star appearances) online?

The Radsnake, San Leandro

To share this story type: ebx.ly/12/letters

OAKLAND FUNDS BALLPARK STUDY

The city council votes to spend $750,000 in redevelopment funds on an environmental study of an A's ballpark in Jack London Square.

By Robert Gammon

The **City of Oakland** sent a strong message last week to **Major League Baseball** that it intends to fight to keep the A's. The city council voted 6-2 to use $750,000 in redevelopment funds to pay for an environmental study of a proposed new ballpark for the **Oakland A's** in Jack London Square, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. Councilmembers **Ignacio De La Fuente** and **Nancy Nadel** voted "no."

De La Fuente argued that the city should not spend any funds until it receives a commitment from Major League Baseball that the A's will stay in Oakland. But council President **Jane Brunner** contended that if the city didn't fund the study, then it would effectively mean that Oakland wasn't interested in stopping the A's from moving to San Jose.

Cal Prof Judgeship Blocked

UC Berkeley law professor **Goodwin Liu**, once touted as possibly the first Asian American to reach the **US Supreme Court**, likely won't even make it onto a federal appellate court during President **Barack Obama**'s first term. The Associated Press reported that **US Senate** Democrats, with approval from the **White House**, quietly agreed in recent weeks to kill Liu's nomination to the **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals** in exchange for Republicans approving some of President Obama's less controversial judicial nominees.

Goodwin Liu

Liu, a liberal, came under fire from conservatives in part because he once strongly criticized right-wing Justice **Samuel Alito**. Liu has since shown contrition for his remarks, but Republicans decided to block Obama's other nominations as long as Democrats kept pushing Liu and three other liberals for judgeships. And because the GOP picked up Senate seats in the November election, Liu's nomination appears to be dead until at least 2013.

Obama Victorious

President Obama ended his first two years in office with a flurry of political victories. Last week, he signed the repeal of the Pentagon's bigoted "**Don't Ask, Don't Tell**" policy. The US Senate also approved the **START** nuclear arms reduction treaty that the president negotiated with Russia. And the Senate finally approved the 9/11 responders' bill that will provide aid to those who helped at **Ground Zero** in Manhattan.

No New Seats

California will not pick up any Congressional seats for the first time in ninety years because of slow population growth, the *Contra Costa Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle* reported, citing new Census figures. The state grew by about 10 percent from 2000, its population rising to 37.2 million. By contrast, Census data shows that Texas' population increased by 20 percent, meaning that it will pick up four Congressional seats. Florida will add two seats.

Motels Targeted

Oakland City Attorney **John Russo** filed lawsuits against three motels in the city that police say have become havens for prostitution, the *Tribune* and *Chronicle* reported. The lawsuits request that the motels be shut down for a year and each pay $25,000 fines unless they solve their prostitution problems. The worst of the three, according to Russo, is the **Economy Inn** at 122 E. 12th St., near Lake Merritt. The other two are the **Sage Motel** at 4844 MacArthur Blvd., near Mills College, and the **National Lodge** at 1711 International Blvd.

Police Video Works

For years, Oakland police refused to videotape interviews with suspects, claiming that doing so would hurt their ability to solve crimes. But then in late 2008, the department changed course after a scandal involving its failure to videotape an interrogation involving the alleged killer of journalist **Chauncey Bailey**. Now, two years later, videotaping has proven to have no effect on the department's ability to obtain confessions. In fact, the *Trib* reported, it's helping county prosecutors obtain convictions.

Three-Dot Roundup

Six men were ordered to stand trial in the brutal gang rape of a sixteen-year-old girl outside a Richmond High School homecoming dance. ... Before its San Bruno pipeline exploded and killed eight people, PG&E strongly advocated for the flawed inspection process that failed to detect problems in the line, the *Chron* reported. ... The FCC adopted net neutrality rules that will make it tougher for cable and telephone companies to discriminate against content providers. ... Oakland police shot and killed a man that they said flashed a gun at them after a high-speed chase. ... Stung by criticism of building a "train to nowhere," the California High-Speed Rail Authority voted to spend another $1.2 billion so that the first segment of the state's bullet train will connect Bakersfield to Fresno, the *San Mateo County Times* reported. ... East Bay residents are less likely to smoke than the average Californian, but surprisingly, that's not true of San Franciscans. ... Unfortunately, taking Echinacea does not significantly improve your ability to beat the common cold, according to a new study. ... And GM sold its first Chevy Volt in the Bay Area, helping launch the era of plug-in hybrids. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510

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LEGALIZATION NATION

THE YEAR IN LEGALIZATION NATION

Plus: a New Year's decriminalization gift, and Oakland pot farms suffer setbacks.

By David Downs

Here's a look back at the major developments in global cannabis culture in 2010:

January: Emboldened by a hands-off approach from the Obama administration, unregulated dispensaries proliferate in Los Angeles, sparking a citywide crackdown that lands in court for the rest of the year. Crass advertisers and high-profile armed robberies turn Los Angeles into the pariah of medical pot.

March: A ballot initiative to legalize marijuana qualifies for the California ballot. The West Coast's largest dispensary, **Harborside Health Center**, begins treating opiate addicts with marijuana, citing case evidence of efficacy.

April: A California bill to reclassify pot possession down from a misdemeanor to an infraction clears committee and ultimately goes on to be signed by the governor.

May: Two firebombings of medical marijuana dispensaries in Montana signal unease over the issue in the red state. **Oaksterdam** unionizes, part of a wave of unionization in the California industry. The **California Board of Equalization** discloses that dispensaries contribute $100 million in sales taxes each year. Riding the casual gaming wave, **Facebook** game ***Pot Farm*** approaches 500,000 growers, on its way to almost 1.5 million by year's end.

June: South Africa's World Cup brings **Durban Poison** back into vogue, and **Paris Hilton** gets popped with a joint at the festivities. *High Times'* first **San Francisco Medical Cannabis Cup** goes to "God's Pussy," irking activists who want to clean up weed's image.

July: An independent **RAND** study finds risk comprises 80 to 90 percent of bud's street price. The **Veterans Affairs Administration** cuts penalties for ill vets using the drug. **Medical Marijuana Inc.** rents the neglected Pontiac Silverdome in Michigan for an industry convention — signaling cannabis' rise in the Midwest.

August: The powerful **California Chamber of Commerce** allied with Christian fundamentalists **Vision to America** puts **Proposition 19** on blast, promising stoned driving carnage and high surgeons.

September: California's Board of Equalization discloses plans for a marijuana tax stamp like stamps on cigarettes.

October: Harvest season in the Emerald Triangle brings record news of shootouts between paramilitary eradication squads and armed growers, sparking Congressional plans for a major offensive to "take back the forests" in 2011. The **San Francisco Giants** World Series home games expose visiting reporters to the city's pungent pot culture. The federal drug czar denounces dope in Los Angeles and says Prop 19 won't stop federal law enforcement.

November: Prop 19 loses 46 to 54; advocates blame the loss on low voter turnout among bud's key demographics and a divisively written initiative that unites in opposition both cops and criminals. Arizona becomes the fifteenth medical marijuana state, creating a billion-dollar industry. Oregon rejects storefront dispensaries. "Tangerine Dream" takes the *High Times* **Cannabis Cup** in Amsterdam.

December: Teen cigarette use drops below teen pot use in the United States for the first time since the Eighties. Reformers note treating smoking as a health issue is more effective than criminalizing unhealthy behavior. Pot prices crash 50 percent to as low as $40 per quarter-ounce or $140 per ounce for patients at dispensaries in San Francisco, part of new pricing pressure driving down the cost of the plant nationwide — a result of changing laws, more supply, and integrated supply chains.

Seeds & Stems

California State Senator **Mark Leno**'s bill to further decriminalize pot takes effect January 1, 2011. Misdemeanor possession of under an ounce of marijuana will be reclassified down to an infraction, meaning the pot holder won't appear in state or federal criminal databases and most background checks. Suspects lose the right to a jury trial over a pot infraction, saving the state tens of millions of dollars in court costs. While possessing less than an ounce of pot in a car is just a ticket, driving under the influence of marijuana — especially in the case of an injury collision — is still a serious crime, as well as possessing any marijuana on school grounds. California cops write about 60,000 pot tickets each year, as well as arrest more than 17,000 for sales or growing, which carries a prison sentence of up to four years. Libertarian think tank **The Cato Institute** estimates that the state spends $1 billion per year enforcing its widely flouted pot laws.

Oakland backpedaled from its fast-moving plan to permit and tax four large-scale medical marijuana farms, citing the potential illegality of independently taxed farms. The city council voted in closed session on December 21 to suspend their controversial "request for permit applications" process to grow indoors large amounts of medical marijuana.

The plans of more than 250 applicants have been thrown into limbo while they sort out changes to the RFPA. The council is expected to vote on changes no sooner than February 1, 2011.

For months, lawyers have said Oakland's plan would take them into murky state law regarding the connection between patient and grower. Oakland's city attorney has not backed the farm ordinance. Unnamed federal officials told *California Watch* that Oakland would be violating federal law and possibly state law. Alameda County District Attorney **Nancy O'Malley** also cautiously implied that Oakland might be acting illegally and she might have to prosecute them.

Assistant to the City Administrator **Arturo Sanchez** said the city was looking at possibly bundling the new dispensary and farm permits into one permit, which could create a legal safe harbor. But that's a contentious issue on the council. ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Amyris co-founder Jack Newman in the company's Emeryville technology lab. Nate Seltenrich

ECO WATCH

FROM DISEASE TO GREEN

Emeryville-based Amyris is using its expertise in fighting malaria to develop a molecule that turns sugarcane into biofuel

By Nate Seltenrich

The **Nissan Leaf** and **Chevy Volt** promise to help quench America's growing thirst for electric vehicles. Yet no matter how popular they become, electric cars will leave a big piece of the petroleum puzzle unsolved: trucks, buses, and aircraft whose power demands cannot be met by current electric-motor technology. Leading the search for a solution is Emeryville company **Amyris**, which is developing a full line of diesel, jet, and gasoline biofuels that it says will perform at least as well as petroleum-based alternatives. The company plans to begin selling its first product, a biodiesel, by 2012. If it succeeds, it'll be the first company to bring a patented renewable fuel to market.

Some 250 employees bustle about the company's ultra-modern 88,000-square-foot lab and office space at 5885 Hollis Street, working to make sure that happens. An excited, convivial atmosphere in the building only contributes to the rosy outlook for a company that went public in September, received a $25 million grant from the **US Department of Energy** to study domestic biofuels in late 2009, and has a major stakeholder in Paris-based **Total**, one of the world's largest oil and gas companies.

That's an enviable place for any business to be, made all the more impressive by Amyris' unlikely beginnings seven years ago. Three bright, idealistic postdocs who met through UC Berkeley came together with the general plan to use synthetic biology to make a difference. And in late 2004, when Berkeley Espresso still served as the company's de facto headquarters, a surprise $42.6 million, five-year grant from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** allowed them to do just that. Charged with developing the technology for a reliable and low-cost anti-malarial drug, they ended up with a 95-percent-effective treatment that costs less than $1 per treatment. It should be widely available in Africa by 2012.

The step from there to biofuels was more natural than it may appear. Amyris' work on artemisinin, the anti-malarial drug, left it with a scientific platform that could be applied to any number of chemical challenges. The company's ethos of using synthetic biology to develop high-impact solutions to worldwide problems, meanwhile, remained intact. And the founders' individual interests tipped the scales even further toward renewable fuels. "All of us had had this environmental bent," said **Jack Newman**, co-founder and senior vice president of research. "Curing malaria, that's impactful. So what are we going to do next?"

Newman's background, in particular, was firmly rooted in environmentalism. The reason he'd decided to study microbiology in the first place, he said, was to learn how to use biological systems to do good for the Earth. Before that, he'd worked with the **California League of Conservation Voters**, the **Sierra Club**, and **Earth First**, including multiple stints as a redwood tree-sitter. "I was super into the environmental movement, and wanted to figure out how biology as a science could form the basis of a technology that could make a difference to the world," he said. "I spent time knocking on doors, asking people for money for good causes. I spent time sitting in a tree to keep the tree from getting cut down. But as soon as I got out of that tree, that tree was toast. And I couldn't spend my life there. If you really want to have an impact in the world, you have to find some way to make whatever it is you're doing sustainable."

Newman ended up earning a postdoctoral degree in microbiology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where he worked in a lab run by **Jay Keasling**, UC Berkeley professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering and fellow Amyris co-founder. Eventually the brain trust in Keasling's lab identified a goal of "build[ing] microbes that would use renewable feedstocks to do everything that petroleum can do." It was out of this impulse that Amyris was born. The Gates grant and malaria program provided the company the jolt it needed to get off the ground.

Amyris' breakthrough in the biofuels arena was developing a molecule called farnesene, a petroleum alternative that can be turned into diesel as well as surfactant, cream emollients, lubricants, and other chemicals. It's created by replacing the yeast that would normally turn a feedstock such as corn into ethanol with a genetically modified yeast that produces farnesene. As a fuel, farnesene offers a number of advantages over ethanol. The latter can only be blended with petroleum fuels up to 15 percent — versus Amyris' **Environmental Protection Agency**-approved 35 percent — and is not appropriate for use in trucks or airplanes.

The company also distinguishes itself by using sugarcane as a feedstock rather than corn, which has been a highly subsidized yet so far unsuccessful biofuel crop in the United States. Amyris' production plant will be located in Brazil, where it has access to significant amounts of sugarcane optimized as a fuel, not a food. "Energy cane," as it's known in the industry, can provide up to five times as many bushels per acre as corn. It's also cheaper and requires less water.

Branded "No Compromise" because it's designed to match or beat petroleum in cost and efficiency while offering a lower carbon footprint, Amyris' fuel has functioned well in early testing — including one stage where it ran an Emery-Go-Round commuter bus. Some engine manufacturers, Newman said, have reported that the fuel makes petroleum run better than it does pure.

AS A FUEL, FARNESENE OFFERS A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES OVER ETHANOL. THE LATTER CAN ONLY BE BLENDED WITH PETROLEUM FUELS UP TO 15 PERCENT — VERSUS AMYRIS' 35 PERCENT.

"I think they have started with the right goals, and if they can do it from sources like energy cane and create biodiesel and biojet fuel that can be blended right at the refinery, that would be very beneficial," said renewable fuels expert **John Addison**, who runs the website **Clean Fleet Report**. The major challenges facing the company, he suggested, are cost and scale: namely, competing with petroleum even while producing potentially tens of hundreds of millions of gallons a year.

Only time will tell how Amyris' technology shakes out in the real world. Yet Newman is confident, and characteristically optimistic about its projected impacts: "Anything that you can get out of a barrel of petroleum you should be able to get from a renewable feedstock." ●

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Mike Baldwin and Orlando Chavez.

Julia Landau

DRUG ADDICTS UNITE!

An Oakland-based group of methadone users and their medical providers has formed a political lobbying union to help shape California policy

By Julia Landau

Dozens of Oakland-based hepatitis-C patients and their providers gathered outside the office of Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. It was September and they were bearing a petition with 4,000 signatures supporting the continuation of **Drug Medi-Cal**, a program that funds substance-abuse treatment services for California's poor. But this was no typical demonstration. The protesters included drug addicts, a group not usually prone to mounting political campaigns on the capitol steps.

The addicts and their health-care providers were upset because the governor's budget earlier in the year had threatened to eliminate most of the program, effectively ending access to methadone treatment and other "abstinence-maintenance" options for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The Legislature eventually blocked the proposed cuts, but activists are certain that the program remains in peril.

Galvanized by the capitol protest, the demonstrators decided to form their own political lobbying union representing a notorious underclass: drug users, past and present. Led by a core group of hep-C patients-turned-activists, the union intends to transform the state's roaming population of drug addicts into a political force. "We are the army of the bedraggled. We're the clients!" said **Orlando Chavez**, an organizer for the campaign. "We figured out we are all in danger of losing access to the only health care we have. And that battle is going to start again in January."

"When it's time to cut the budget, it's easy to ignore the drug addicts," noted Dr. **Diane Sylvestre**, a specialist in hepatitis C and addiction-related diseases. "The stigma of addiction keeps people feeling like they don't really have a say in the policies that affect them." But many of Sylvestre's patients are shaking off the stigma.

Advocacy groups like the nonprofit **Drug Policy Alliance** and the **Harm Reduction Coalition** have been lobbying for some time, campaigning for drug decriminalization and policies sympathetic to active drug users. But an addict-driven group dedicated to changing policy at the state and local level would be unprecedented in the East Bay.

Oakland-based **OASIS**, which stands for **Organization to Achieve Solutions in Substance Abuse**, is providing space for the budding movement. Recognized for treating persons with addictions for hepatitis C, OASIS is a full-scale medical facility doubling as a drug and alcohol treatment center. Group counseling and information sessions impart a nonjudgmental, science-based approach to addiction. Proactive attitudes are illustrated by protest banners declaring "What Am I, Chopped Liver?" and by pictures of celebrated users on the wall — **Sigmund Freud** (cocaine), **Howard Hughes** (opiates), **Daryl Strawberry** (cocaine), **Steve Jobs** (LSD).

As the doctor who treated the new lobbying group's organizers for hep C, Sylvestre recognizes that addicts are not known for political participation. But the threat to services they depend on, she said, roused them. Since the September protest, she said, there's been "an aggressive effort to recruit people with addiction histories to take a stand for drug policy. The idea is: 'We're addicts and we need to vote.'"

One of the first hurdles for the group was finding its identity. At a recent meeting at OASIS, Chavez, a longtime heroin addict now sober for seven years, lobbied to include the word "addict" or "drug user" in the group's name. He wants to debunk the idea that addicts don't care about their own health and future. "To de-stigmatize addiction, you have to reclaim the term," he said. "It's like *Chicano*. It used to be a derogatory word but now people wear it with pride."

But a couple of the group's members shifted in their seats. "It'll attract the core group but it's going to scare other people away — people we need on our side," said one woman in her forties, who wished not to be identified. "What about people who are not there yet?" she said, "and don't feel proud?"

The trick, the group agreed, was to attract people directly affected by drug policies, like users of methadone clinics and needle exchanges, while not alienating other addicts, health-care providers, and non-addicts. "How about United Survivors for Drug Policy Reform?" suggested Chavez. "I like survivors in there, because that way you include families."

Forming a consensus from an unstable population has proven a challenge for medical researchers and activists alike, but the users union concept has sprung up elsewhere: New York City, Toronto, and recently San Francisco. California's voter initiative system also allows citizen groups with enough signatures to put a measure on the ballot. But signatures aren't valid unless they're from registered voters — a tough standard for a frequently homeless or otherwise unstable population. According to research gathered by the group for the action in September, the state's 147 methadone clinics serve 37,000 people — a significant untapped voting bloc. For OASIS, the clinics are ideal voter registration sites.

That means getting the cooperation of the clinics and the attention of would-be voters, "and then getting them to vote, which is the harder part," said Sylvestre at the OASIS meeting. Chavez suggested the threat of losing access to the clinic as a talking point. But Sylvestre argued that most addicts they'd find in line would not be motivated by political activism. "You're not thinking proactively when you're using drugs," Sylvestre noted.

CHAVEZ, A LONGTIME HEROIN ADDICT NOW SOBER, LOBBIED TO INCLUDE "ADDICT" OR "DRUG USER" IN THE GROUP'S NAME. HE WANTS TO DEBUNK THE IDEA THAT ADDICTS DON'T CARE ABOUT THEIR OWN HEALTH.

The hepatitis C infected and drug-addicted have formed a close-knit community around Sylvestre, said **Lisa Roelig**, an organizer of the new group. Roelig came to OASIS a year ago after a physician at **Highland Hospital** told her it might be the only place that could treat her hepatitis C. "I could tell there was something going on when I walked in the door," said Roelig, 55 and a longtime "user and boozer." "Then Dr. Sylvestre walked in and started doing her thing."

Sylvestre's "thing" is part science, part activism. A graduate of **Harvard Medical School**, she's an expert in addiction medicine and does not differentiate between addiction and other chronic illnesses requiring medical maintenance. While laypersons — and some doctors — often perceive addiction as a psychological defect or a problem of willpower, Sylvestre points to evidence from a 2000 study in the *Journal of American Medical Association*, "Drug Dependence: A Chronic Medical Illness." The study points out "significant and persistent changes in brain chemistry and function" in a drug-dependent individual, likening addiction to other chronic illnesses such as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

For Chavez, knowing the research helps him feel unashamed about organizing under the banner of drug addiction. "Breast cancer survivors are organized, people with MS," he noted. "They come out, that's how it starts: 'I have this [disease], it's okay to talk about it, and here is what we want to do about it.'"

Chavez, a 59-year-old who's been on methadone since 2001, said the drug allows him to stay off the stronger, illegal stuff. It has quelled a struggle in his body, he said, much like how taking blood-pressure medicine keeps hypertension under control.

But if the proposed Drug Medi-Cal cuts go through, methadone patients would have ninety days to wean off the drug, and stay off. However, studies show that the majority would relapse, eventually costing the state more than the money saved by cuts because of criminal justice and medical expenses stemming from drug addiction. "The [proposed] cut felt like a target on my back," Chavez said.

So what is the ultimate ambition of a drug users union? "Meaningful and evidence-based drug policy," Sylvestre answered. That means, among other things, stepping up efforts to control the spread and progression of hepatitis C while reining in opiate addiction with methadone treatment programs.

Roelig, Chavez, and Sylvestre all agree that eliminating access to methadone would have "catastrophic" consequences. Approximately 35,000 people regulate their addiction through methadone, according to **Jason Kletter**, a doctor and president of **Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment**. Kletter contends that crime and hospitalization rates would shoot up should the state cut off methadone funding.

Back at OASIS, the name discussion entered its final round. Unable to resist the urge for self-satire, Chavez floated "Junkies for Justice." People laughed, but the suggestion touched on an important issue for the group. Unlike breast cancer and even HIV survivors, addicts are perceived not as victims, but as having brought their woes on themselves.

The 2000 JAMA study authors note that social stigma obscures the physiological aspects of drug addiction: drug dependence boosts crime, unemployment, and the need for foster care. "These expensive effects of drugs on all social systems," the study authors wrote, "have been important in shaping the public view that drug dependence is primarily a social problem that requires interdiction and law enforcement rather than a health problem that requires prevention and treatment."

Eventually, OASIS patient-activists decided on a name: **United for Drug Policy Reform**. Hoping to spark a statewide mobilization of California's drug- and alcohol-addicted, methadone-taking, homeless, or hepatitis C infected population, the group has thirteen members in its official database — with sights set on the 2014 ballot. "I wouldn't say we're ready for prime time, but we're getting there," Chavez said. "It's a serious effort." ●

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Crow and her goat, Prima

Keith Cech

KEEPING GOATS IN OAKLAND

Can livestock transform neighborhoods?

By Carlin Esch

It seems like everyone has a goat these days. It's technically legal in Oakland, as long as you don't sell the milk or slaughter the animal on your property — or keep the goat in an apartment building or hotel, which seems reasonable.

A few weeks ago Oakland goat-keeper **Crow** (who wanted to go by her first name only) gave a goat milking demonstration at the **North Oakland Farmers' Market** just off Market Street. Crow was recruited by **Max Cadji**, the outreach coordinator for **Phat Beets Produce**, a food collective in Oakland. Crow showed up on a rainy Saturday morning with **Prima**, her three-and-a-half-year-old **Oberhalsi**. Prima is a Swiss dairy goat common among Bay Area urban farmers. Depending on the age and condition of the goat, Crow estimates an Oberhalsi costs between $175 and $250.

Crow co-owns her goat with about twelve other people, as they rotate the twice-daily milking responsibilities. That said, keeping a goat is easier than it may seem. "Just like with a cat or dog, everyone shouldn't have a goat," Crow said. "It does take effort."

A few years ago, Crow's wife suggested the family get a dog. "And I said, why don't we get goats?" Crow recalled. So they turned the garage and yard into a goat barn slash milking parlor. They spend about $10 a week on hay, plus the cost of molasses treats and diet enhancements like flax seed, kelp meal, and probiotics. In return, the goat provides about four cups of milk, twice a day, which the family drinks unpasteurized or turns into cheese, garlic-herb spread, and caramel. "We haven't bought milk from the store in a year and a half," Crow said. "We definitely do better than break even, but it's not a financial thing. If you're not into caring for your goat — trimming hooves, mucking the yard in the rain — it wouldn't be worth it."

Crow and friends also get to eat the goat's babies. They recently slaughtered — about thirty miles outside city limits — Prima's six-month old kid. "If you're going to eat meat, it's nice to know where it's coming from," he said. "A lot of our industrial meat [problems] stem from large batches of poorly processed meat."

Crow's message fits the broader theme of the farmers' market located in the parking lot of the **Arlington Medical Center** in North Oakland. Cadji said he was approached by one of the doctors at the clinic who asked him to start a market like the one he already had going on Tuesdays at **Children's Hospital** down the street.

Unlike many small markets, vendors at the North Oakland market accept food stamps, senior checks, and **Women, Infants, and Children** (WIC) funds. They offer fresh produce at reasonable prices by working with small start-up farms through **ALBA**, or **Agricultural Land-Based Training Association**, a nonprofit organization that leases land at below-market prices to Latino farmers. The association provides training and connects growers to markets.

As for Phat Beets, it runs largely thanks to volunteers. It also has nonprofit status, which allows it to apply for grants and keep prices low. "A lot of these communities don't have the privilege of a fresh farmers' market," Cadji said. "There are all sorts of ways people get hustled out of what little money they have — a lot of cash-checking places, liquor stores."

Residents of West and North Oakland are already looking for ways to get healthy food on the cheap. People grow sugarcane along Mandela Parkway, and yards are rife with fruit trees, avocadoes, chickens, rabbits, ducks, and even goats. "These aren't people who have blogs or work for nonprofits," Cadji said. "These are refugees from Southeast Asia, these are people who left the south before World War II. ... These are low-income seniors who learned to pluck a chicken or skin a rabbit when they were young. And you'd never guess someone living in Oakland for the past thirty years knows how to do this stuff."

The market isn't just about selling food, Cadji said, it's about community. And by bringing back the skills people have slowly lost over time — like goat milking — Cadji hopes to reconnect the generations while improving health.

It's also about bringing neighbors together, Crow said, as he washed Prima's utters with hydrogen peroxide, gave Prima's utter a pull, and smelled the first bit of milk to shoot into the pail — he was checking for mastitis, one of the biggest threats to urban goats. "We walk the goat around the neighborhood," Crow said. "There are a lot of kids in the neighborhood who just love her. Parents stop by so their kids can feed the goat." ●

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The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

True Grit

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest

The Social Network

The Kids Are All Right

10 BEST MOVIES OF 2010

It was an off year, except in the Land Down Under

By Kelly Vance

Let's face it, 2010 was a less than enchanting year in general. And, as if the Earth hadn't enough bad news in this dreadful Year of the Tiger, supposedly knowledgeable critics are going around saying 2010 is to be one of the worst all-time years for movies, as well.

Gadfly **Joe Queenan** devoted a feature story to the subject in the *Wall Street Journal*, in which he made fun of sequels and the eminently dismissible *Dinner for Schmucks* as examples of films no one wanted to see. Over at *The New York Times*, **A.O. Scott** floated the idea that TV has taken over from movies as the number-one platform for provocative and exciting entertainment. And, as if to rub salt in the wound, film-generation hero **Jean-Luc Godard** blew off his honorary Academy Award as meaningless. What's the cinematic world coming to?

In the heat of the Tiger Year, ordinary dramas, comedies, and fantasies seemed inadequate and pale. Only the most extreme flavors registered and only the strongest terms could describe the situation meaningfully. That's why we've decided to return to Oz — as in Australia, the country and the film industry — if only as a state of mind.

We'll discuss that impulse further, but first, in the order in which they're discussed below, here are the Ten Best Movies of 2010:

The Square directed by **Nash Edgerton**

Animal Kingdom directed by **David Michôd**

The Social Network directed by **David Fincher**

The Lisbeth Salander Trilogy, comprising ***The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo***, ***The Girl Who Played with Fire***, and ***The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest***, directed by **Niels Arden Oplev** and **Daniel Alfredson**

Carlos directed by **Olivier Assayas**

14-18: The Noise and the Fury directed by **Jean-François Delassus**

Mother directed by **Bong Joon-ho**

Winter's Bone directed by **Debra Granik**

The Kids Are All Right directed by **Lisa Cholodenko**

True Grit directed by **Ethan and Joel Coen**

In other words, two Australian neo-noirs, a big-budget drama about an online startup business, a Swedish psychological action miniseries, a French made-for-TV miniseries about a real-life political terrorist, a French historical documentary, a Korean crime thriller, a rural American crime thriller, a US indie sitcom about a pair of lesbian moms, and the lone traditional Hollywood genre flick, a Western sequel. That is, a Coen Bros.-style Western sequel, with all that entails.

Why this fascination with the land of kangaroos? In 2009 a documentary called ***Not Quite Hollywood*** played for a week at local Landmark art houses. In it, writer-director **Mark Hartley** wanted to show us that what most American foreign-movie fans reckoned was the "Australian renaissance" of art films in the Seventies and Eighties (*Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Gallipoli*, etc.) represented only a pallid trickle compared to the rich, pulpy stream of genre flicks being made in Australia at the time — stuff like *Mad Dog Morgan* or *Turkey Shoot*. Hartley's terrifically entertaining doc, subtitled *The Wild, Untold Story of Ozploitation*, was stuffed with titillating clips from dozens of action, sexploitation, and horror films. We wanted to see them all. But only dedicated fanatics could hope to dig up such buried nuggets as *Deathcheaters* from thirty years ago.

This year, however, there magically appeared on Bay Area screens a string of unheralded new releases from Oz, glistening with possibility. Genre still turns them on Down Under, and apparently neo-noir is the flavor of the moment. The most striking new Australian films to open here this year, Nash Edgerton's *The Square* and David Michôd's *Animal Kingdom*, deal with grandiose hubris embedded in petty criminality in their stories of cheating spouses, drug deals, armed robbery, arson, and plain old murder.

Edgerton, a stunt man turned writer-director whose short ***Spider*** had audiences writhing in their seats when shown on the same program with *The Square*, develops the latter's tawdry tale of serial betrayal with a precise combination of mature forethought, finely chiseled scene-setting, and the mean-spirited character acting of **David Roberts** (as a wannabe-wily construction boss suffering from fatal doses of both horniness and greed), **Claire van der Boom** (the boss' girlfriend, wife of the dope dealer they plan to rip off), and the director's brother, **Joel Edgerton**, as one of many resident lowlifes in the Joe Six Pack environs of Caringbah, New South Wales. Evil deeds are done, but they're nothing compared to the dumb accidents that befall.

If Edgerton's portrait of lower-middle-class contempt brings interpersonal relations down to the level of a pit bull obsessively swimming across a deep river in search of a cute pup, Michôd's *Animal Kingdom* relates a family saga that summons up images of Shakespeare drowning in a pint of Victoria Bitter. The milieu is a clan of Melbourne holdup artists headed by violent psychopath Andrew "Pope" Cody (**Ben Mendelsohn**) and his eerily cheerful mother Janine, aka Grandma Smurf (the amazing **Jacki Weaver**), den mother to a brood of thieves, and what happens when Pope's seventeen-year-old nephew J (**James Frecheville**) comes to live with them. Bloody dangerous.

The Cody family's exploits would make a sympathetically creepy twin bill with filmmaker **Geoffrey Wright**'s 2006 Australian goth version of *Macbeth*. First-time writer-director Michôd — he co-wrote *Spider* with Nash Edgerton — is a major talent right out of the box. Keep an eye out, so to speak, for him. And if you think you spotted *The Square*'s Joel Edgerton as Pope's crew mate Baz, you're getting the hang of it.

There are further Oz-tentatious displays. It may have had only one screening in the Bay — a midnight showcase at the San Francisco International Film Festival last April — but **Sean Byrne**'s ***The Loved Ones*** qualifies as a find for fans of old-school splatter horror. It's the old Prom Night from Hell, winningly done up as a game of wilted wits between a vengeful high-school wallflower named Princess (**Robin McLeavy**) and the surfer boy who turned

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Question #3 Why are forests considered "carbon sinks"?

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Question #5 What causes the LIMPET power plant's turbine to spin?

Find Me!

Question #6 What type of windows help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter?

Find Me!

Question #7 What plant is a more promising economical source of biofuel?

Find Me!

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The Girl Who Played With Fire

Winter's Bone

14-18: The Noise and the Fury

The Square

her down for the big date (**Xavier Samuel**). Cue power drills.

Meanwhile, **Patrick Hughes'** new release ***Red Hill*** has stylish genre fun with a Western set in the title village, where an Aboriginal escaped convict (**Tommy Lewis**) comes hunting for the ockers who done him wrong. (We review *Red Hill* at length elsewhere in this issue.) Fancy an Aboriginal musical? Western Australia fantasy ***Bran Nue Dae***, by filmmaker **Rachel Perkins**, crosses Baz Luhrmann with *Rabbit-Proof Fence* in the whimsical story of a teenage boy named Willie and his search for identity, which is hampered by mock-sinister Catholic priest **Geoffrey Rush**.

More Australian films are reportedly on their way to American screens, including **Brendan Fletcher**'s Outback story ***Mad Bastards***; **Matthew Bate**'s viral-video documentary about dueling neighbors, ***Shut Up, Little Man!***; the vigilante thriller ***Blame*** by **Michael Henry**; and ***Coffin Rock***, **Rupert Glasson**'s melodrama about a possessive ex-lover, sort of a *Fatal Attraction* riff with a male in the injured-party spot. The first two of the above got their US debuts at **Sundance** this winter. The upshot of all this is that we needn't get depressed sorting through tepid Hollywood sequels and remakes for movie excitement. The wizards of Oz are ready to pick up the slack.

We reviewed *Mother*, *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, *The Square*, *The Kids Are All Right*, *Animal Kingdom*, *The Social Network*, *Carlos*, and *True Grit* during the year in the course of our weekly movie coverage in the *Express*. *The Social Network* is the very best film of the year by a wide margin, and we take back (almost) every negative thing we said about director Fincher while he was toiling in the vineyards of *Fight Club* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. He finally found a story that means something. The film's strongest selling point, aside from Fincher's remarkable cast and the iron-clad topicality of profiling a tech billionaire in classically tragic terms, is **Aaron Sorkin**'s screenplay. Now we're pacing the floor anticipating what Fincher is doing, even as we speak, to another of 2010's best bets, the Lisbeth Salander Trilogy, as he helms the obligatory Hollywood remake.

Alongside the bland ambitious deadpan of **Facebook**'s founder, solitary Swedish riot grrrl avenger Salander is 2010's most striking poster child. Ever notice how every third person on BART is carrying a copy of one of the late **Stieg Larsson**'s books? Niels Arden Oplev's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, the first in the series, is a stressful actioner with just enough headline kink to satisfy jaded urban audiences, but it was *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, under the direction of Daniel Alfredson, that really set the hook for Lisbeth's violent saga, aka The Millennium Trilogy — named after the investigative magazine where Mikael Blomkvist (actor **Michael Nyqvist**) works.

Noomi Rapace, the face that took a thousand punches as hella picked-on Lisbeth, successfully kept a lid on her character when a lesser mortal, say **Uma Thurman**'s The Bride in the *Kill Bill* films, would simply hack everyone to pieces. Lisbeth is cool, hurt, and alone, and she'll never get over it. Many of us can relate. Her distressing adventures — after all, she's ridding the world of her family — tell us as much about the current state of things as **Mark Zuckerberg**'s wounded acquisitiveness.

Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, the real-life protagonist of *Carlos*, also cast himself as a righteous avenger. He took his *nom de guerre* from two-time Venezuelan president **Carlos Andrés Pérez**, an anti-IMF, anti-World Bank petro-activist. When we first meet Carlos (a tour-de-force performance by fellow Venezuelan **Edgar Ramírez**) he has already worked himself up to a pitch of anger ("words get us nowhere") where violence is the only recourse to social injustice. And so he rents himself out as a hit man for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Potential audiences for filmmaker Olivier Assayas' monumental five-and-a-half-hour portrait of the notorious international terrorist and his times have reportedly objected to the film's relentless cataloguing of assassinations and bombings.

As in *The Baader Meinhof Complex*, Carlos' depredations, detailed by director Assayas and screenwriter **Dan Franck** in machine-gun montage, put the story in clear, murderous context. Carlos was a sincerely committed, and sincerely misguided, man whose deadly career gradually took over his life. After all is said and done, what is a revolutionary? And what is a just cause worth dying for? This thought-provoking, visceral political drama is probably the pinnacle of Assayas' filmography.

Carlos, the Lisbeth Salander Trilogy, and Jean-François Delassus' tapestry-like documentary *14-18: The Noise and the Fury* all began as TV shows. **World War I** literally destroyed an entire French generation, and director Delassus uses everything at his disposal — reenactments, newsreels, colorized footage, animations, etc. — to bring the full force of the horror of that war to the screen through the requisite haze of time. The implication is that each and every one those lives was wasted. Maybe someone, some day, will do for the American people vis-a-vis Iraq and Afghanistan what Delassus does for the French with this haunting, brilliant, ineffably sad evocation of a time and place.

Bong Joon-ho's *Mother* and Debra Granik's *Winter's Bone* take us deep into the interior of their respective countries, where the unglamorous dwell, for stories of murders and redemption keyed by world-class performances. In *Mother*, it's actor **Kim Hye-ja** as the determined mom of a mentally challenged young man charged with killing a woman in his South Korean village. Everyone in town wants to hang the murder on her son and be done with it, but she's not buying.

Winter's Bone, another murder mystery with deep emotional currents, gets noteworthy acting jobs from **Jennifer Lawrence** as an Ozark Mountains resident named Ree Dolly who's looking for her disappeared meth-dealing father, and **John Hawkes** as Ree's sinister uncle Teardrop, who knows where the community's bodies are buried, literally. It's tempting to imagine that these two movies are driven by their actors, but Bong (*The Host*) and Granik (*Down to the Bone*) have both made a specialty of getting under the skin of preoccupied characters when they're not looking, and this is those directors' year to shine.

Zesty life-styler *The Kids Are All Right* benefited mightily from the perfs of **Annette Bening, Julianne Moore**, and **Mark Ruffalo**, fitted with great precision to Cholodenko and **Stuart Blumberg**'s screenplay. Look for

Animal Kingdom

Mother

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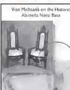

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Carlos

this property to make its way to the tube. In the meantime, it's our idea of a cool summer refresher.

As for the Coen Brothers and *True Grit*, the project was already halfway home before it began shooting, with the casting of **Jeff Bridges** and ingénue **Hailee Steinfeld** in the roles of garrulous lawman Rooster Cogburn and guardhouse lawyer Mattie Ross, the drunken old coot's teenage trail mama. Everyone talks about the Coens' verisimilitude in showing the Old West "as it actually was" — but it's the unreality of the situation that makes it unique. With *No Country for Old Men* and now this, the Coens are hitting their stride with the Western. In its best moments, *True Grit* approaches the sanctified realm of **Anthony Mann** and **Budd Boetticher**, if not quite **John Ford**'s sagebrush Valhalla.

Every ray of sunshine contains a black shadow, as the saying goes. This year perhaps more than most, the films we admired weren't necessarily the ones we cherished with fiendish glee against our better judgment. With that in mind, here's the evil twin of the Ten Best List, a sullen little doppelganger we call Top Ten from the Dark Side (in no particular order):

Enter the Void by **Gaspar Noé**
Splice by **Vincenzo Natali**
When You're Strange by **Tom DiCillo**
The Loved Ones by **Sean Byrne**
Let Me In by **Matt Reeves**
Machete by **Robert Rodriguez**
The Killer Inside Me by **Michael Winterbottom**
Marwencol by **Jeff Malmberg**
The *Mesrine* series, ***Mesrine: Killer Instinct*** and ***Mesrine: Public Enemy #1*** by **Jean-François Richet**
William S. Burroughs: A Man Within by **Yony Leyser**

No one yet has replicated the recreational drug experience onscreen with the same panache as French director Noé — he's the **Abel Gance** of Ecstasy. Reeves' *Let Me In* was not only not an insult to its Swedish original, Tomas Alfredson's *Let the Right One In*, it was arguably the better version of that melancholy adolescent vampire story. *Machete*, the best Robert Rodriguez movie since, well, ever, rescued us from a summer of boredom. ¡Viva **Danny Trejo** and **Michelle Rodriguez**! **Jim Thompson** adaptations run the gamut, and the Winterbottom/**Casey Affleck** version, *The Killer Inside Me*, fits uncomfortably into the mix. Its two graphic beatings may be the strangest whiffs of realistic, stomach-knotting violence on multiplex screens this year, definitely not for everyone.

More Dark Side notes: One of the year's finest documentaries — in company with ***Inside Job***, ***Client 9***, ***Restrepo***, ***Sweetgrass***, ***Winnebago Man***, and the wonderful ***The Tillman Story*** — *Marwencol* takes us into the private world of a man who has retreated from life, and his fantasy creation, a WWII Belgian village, is pretty damned seductive. Actor **Vincent Cassel** had a gratifying year with ***Black Swan*** and the *Mesrine* two-parter, but he looked like he was having a lot more fun as Mesrine the legendary bank robber and jail breaker. Think William "Old Bull Hubbard" Burroughs was weird? Yony Leyser's doc biography of the writer takes us down into the sub-basement of that proposition.

List-o-mania continues. "Worst of" tabulations are always difficult. Failures of ambition vs. clueless blundering, etc. Who really wants to add up all the wasted hours? But here are seven deadly sins against moviegoers that must not go unpunished:

Repo Men
Valentine's Day
Cracks
Robin Hood
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time
Perrier's Bounty
The Tourist

We could go on for days naming rotten movies, but what's the point? Get out of the house and into the "shared entertainment experience." *True Grit*, at least, is still in the theaters. Or stay at home and watch ***William S. Burroughs: The Junky's Christmas***. For a good time, visit: ScreenAustralia.gov.au ●

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/toptenmovies2010

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

COMEDY

[illegible] Hensen Thu., Dec. 30, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. $30-$40. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

Second Annual "Not Your Normal New Year's Eve" Featuring [illegible], [illegible], and Lynn Ruth Miller. [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $30-$50. [illegible] Theater, 851 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, [illegible].

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show with Will Durst and Friends Improv and stand-up comedy skewering the year's biggest news stories, also featuring [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 7 & 10 p.m., $25-$35. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, [illegible]. Rhythmix.org.

Paul Mooney VIP [illegible] champagne ($50) or [illegible] Through Dec. 31, 7 & 9 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 31, 11 p.m. $75 general; $90-$100 VIP. [illegible] Repertory Theatre, [illegible] St., Berkeley, [illegible].

CULINARY & WINE

New Year's Eve Dinner at [illegible] Six-course prix fixe dinner, featuring a sparkling wine toast and music by [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m. $65. [illegible] Broadway Ave., Oakland.

New Year's Eve [illegible] at Chop Bar [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $75. Chop Bar, 247 4th St., Oakland, [illegible]. ChopBarOak.com.

New Year's Eve Dinner at Gather Serving a four-course prix-fixe menu with vegan and vegetarian options. Fri., Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m. $85. Gather, 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley, [illegible]. GatherRestaurant.com.

New Year's Eve Dinner at [illegible] With a five-course prix fixe dinner including a glass of sparkling wine and live music. Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m. $55. [illegible] 2220 Mountain [illegible], Oakland, [illegible].

New Year's Eve [illegible] Featuring a four-course prix-fixe menu (plus amuse-bouche and glass of wine), a live champagne toast at midnight, live music and dancing. With early ([illegible]) and [illegible] seating, plus an optional wine pairing ($30). Fri., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., $75-[illegible]. Zut!, 1820 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-0444. ZutOnFourth.com.

New Year's Eve "Murder of the Decade" Murder Mystery Dinner Interactive show and game, with a three-course dinner and sparkling wine. Reservations required. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $75. Lake Chalet, 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, [illegible]. TheLakeChalet.com.

KIDS

New Year's Eve Balloon Drop [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 10:45 a.m., 12:45 & 2:45 p.m., $4 per child, plus museum admission. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Earth's Biggest Calendar Store With hundreds of calendars in various themes and of various themes for sale. $3.99 each or three for $10. Sat., Jan. 1, 10 a.m. Pegasus Books, 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-6888.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall A fundraiser for Pleasanton-area nonprofit charities, with live music, DJ, appetizers, several no-host bars, and a champagne toast. Visit http://TheBallAtTheMall.org for more information and to buy tickets. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., [illegible]. Stoneridge Shopping Center, Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton, [illegible].

New Year's Day All-White Ice Skate Party With DJ [illegible] spinning old-school beats. All ages; no one under 13 admitted without an adult. Sat., Jan. 1, 8-11 p.m. Admission [illegible] rental [illegible] Sports Center and Skating Rink, 1315 Sunset [illegible]

New Year's Eve Celebration Fundraiser Dinner after [illegible]. Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m. $75. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Point Richmond, [illegible], Masquers.org.

New Year's Eve Singles Party With live DJ, casino gaming, party favors, a balloon drop, prize drawings, and more. Couples also welcome. See [illegible] for more details. Fri., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m. $61 in advance; $79 at the door. [illegible] Hilton, [illegible] Concord, [illegible]. ConcordHilton.com.

[illegible] Blues and Gold Blowout With Zydeco, swing and slam poetry music, dancing, a champagne toast, and food and drink for sale. Featuring performances by [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., $20. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Ring in the New Year with Pinball With a midnight toast, door prizes, finger food, a no-host bar, and 90 pinball machines available for play. Fri., Dec. 31, 6 p.m.-2 a.m., $25. Pacific Pinball Museum, 1510 Webster St., Alameda, [illegible], PacificPinball.org.

"Tiki-Lypso" New Year's Eve Party With a VIP party ([illegible]) featuring [illegible] luau, live calypso music, after which the party will be [illegible] for more calypso, [illegible] and champagne toast. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $10-$50. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, [illegible]. ForbiddenIslandAlameda.com.

[illegible] New Year's Eve Dance Party With live swing and jazz music, dance lessons, and a silent auction to benefit the [illegible] educational programs. Fri., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., $45-$60. [illegible] 701 W. [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-521-8448.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Polar Bear Plunge Ring in the new year with a swim in the unheated water. [illegible] contests and prizes. Sat., Jan. 1, noon. $15 in advance, $20 day of. [illegible] Aquatic Park, 141 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, [illegible]. PleasantHillRec.com.

MUSIC

1988 New Year's Eve: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., free. Mighty, 119 Utah St., San Francisco, [illegible]. Mighty119.com.

[illegible]: w/ [illegible] Sat., Jan. 1, 3 p.m., $15. Mezzanine, 444 Jessie St., San Francisco, 415-625-8880. MezzanineSF.com.

[illegible] Featuring Phil Lesh & Bob Weir Fri., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., [illegible] (sold out). Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove St., San Francisco, [illegible]. BillGrahamCivic.com.

[illegible]: w/ [illegible] Sat., Jan. 1, 9 p.m. [illegible] 1131 Polk St., San Francisco, [illegible]. HemlockTavern.com.

[illegible] Quartet & [illegible] Sat., Jan. 1, 8 p.m., $15-$20. [illegible] Art House, 2808 Folsom St., San Francisco, [illegible]. RedPoppyArtHouse.org.

[illegible] New Year's Eve: w/ DJ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, [illegible]. StorkClubOakland.com.

[illegible] NYE 2011: w/ Smash-Up Derby, [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., [illegible]. Mezzanine, 444 Jessie St., San Francisco, 415-625-8880. MezzanineSF.com.

[illegible] New Year's Eve 2011: w/ Natalie Rose, DJ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $20. Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell St., San Francisco, [illegible]. RickshawStop.com.

DJ [illegible] spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more. Thursdays, 10 p.m., free. Easy Lounge, 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, [illegible].

[illegible] Present: New Year's Eve Bash 2011. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. [illegible] 2168 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, [illegible].

[illegible]: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $32.25, $47.25. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco, 415-775-7722.

[illegible]: A New Year's Eve Extravaganza w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $35. West Bay Conference Center, 1290 Fillmore St., San Francisco.

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5 & 7:30 p.m., [illegible]. Peña Pachamama, 1630 Powell St., San Francisco, [illegible]. PenaPachamama.com.

Flight NYE w/ [illegible] w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., [illegible]. [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, [illegible]. ShattuckDownLow.com.

[illegible]: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $15. [illegible] 1531 Polk St., San Francisco, [illegible].

[illegible] (Oakland) w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Ghost Town, 2565 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible]: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $15. The Uptown, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100. UptownNightclub.com.

High on Fire New Year's Day Show Sat., Jan. 1, 9 p.m., $20. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

[illegible] @ Armageddon 2012 w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $15. Oakland Metro Opera House, 630 3rd St., Oakland, [illegible]. OaklandMetro.org.

[illegible] New Year's Eve: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $15-$25. [illegible] Room, 647 Valencia St., San Francisco, [illegible].

Island Style New Year's Eve 2011: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $25-$30. [illegible] San Francisco, [illegible].

[illegible] Sat., Jan. 1, [illegible] Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. JupiterBeer.com.

[illegible] Sat., Jan. 1, 2 p.m., $35. [illegible] 222 [illegible] St., San Francisco. [illegible]

Larry Smith & [illegible]: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m., [illegible] Columbus Ave., San Francisco, [illegible].

[illegible] New Year's Eve: Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $15. Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St., San Francisco, [illegible]. MakeOutRoom.com.

[illegible]: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m., $7. 924 Gilman, 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, [illegible]. 924Gilman.org.

New Year's Celebration w/ [illegible]: Dec. 30-Jan. 1, [illegible]. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco, [illegible]. Yoshis.com.

New Year's Eve [illegible] w/ [illegible] w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, [illegible]. StarryPlough.com.

New Year's Eve Bluegrass Bash: w/ High Country, [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m., [illegible]. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020. TheFreight.org.

New Year's Eve Celebration w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8 & 11 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 1, 8 & 10 p.m., [illegible]. Yoshi's, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, [illegible]. Yoshis.com.

New Year's Eve Celebration w/ [illegible] w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., [illegible]. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

New Year's Eve Countdown 2011. w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $10. [illegible] Sixth St., San Francisco, [illegible].

New Year's Eve Featuring [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, [illegible] San Francisco, [illegible].

New Year's Eve w/ [illegible] Bob Marley tribute. Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $15. [illegible] Mason St., San Francisco.

New Year's Eve w/ [illegible]: plus Mystic Knights of the Cobra, [illegible] & DJ Girlfriend. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $5-$10. [illegible] 827 Second Ave., Crockett, [illegible].

New Year's Eve w/ [illegible] Brass Band: w/ New Orleans Klezmer Allstars. Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 9 p.m., $35. The Independent, 628 Divisadero St., San Francisco, [illegible].

New Year's Eve w/ Surprise Me Mr. Davis: w/ Big Light. Fri., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., $30. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St., San Francisco, [illegible], CafeDuNord.com.

New Year's Eve w/ The [illegible] Gang: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m., $10. Hotel Utah, 500 4th St., San Francisco, [illegible]. TheHotelUtahSaloon.com.

New Year's Eve with [illegible], Speed of Light: Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., [illegible] Roadhouse, 1790 Clement Ave., Alameda, [illegible].

New Year's w/ Primus: performing Sailing the Seas of Cheese w/ The Residents (Dec. 30) & Les Claypool's Fancy Brigade w/ The Dead Kenny G's (Dec. 31). Dec. 30-31, 8 p.m., [illegible]. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, TheFoxOakland.com.

New Year's Eve w/ [illegible]: Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m., [illegible]. Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. JupiterBeer.com.

New Year's Eve w/ The Slackers: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $35. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, [illegible].

New Year's Eve Zydeco Dance Party w/ [illegible] & Zydeco Magic: Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $40. Eagles Hall, 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, [illegible].

New Year's Eve 2011 w/ [illegible]: w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m., [illegible] San Francisco, [illegible].

[illegible]: [illegible] Sundays-Saturdays, 5 p.m., free. The Alley, 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, [illegible].

Streets of San Francisco New Year's Eve 2011 w/ [illegible] plus this lineup: [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., [illegible]. Fort Mason, Marina Blvd. and Buchanan St., San Francisco, [illegible].

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 10 p.m., $15. [illegible] 3223 Mission St., San Francisco, [illegible].

Uptown/[illegible] New Year's Eve Bash: w/ comedy, circus & variety acts, plus a live performance by [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., $15. The Uptown, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, [illegible]. UptownNightclub.com. ■

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The scene at the last Birdland party

CULTURE SPY

THE BIRDMAN STRIKES

Berkeley birdhouse-maker Michael Parayno says his weekly parties build community. But the city says he's breaking the law — again.

By Lois Beckett

Every Friday night, there's free barbecue, s'mores, and live jazz at 1733 Sacramento Street in Berkeley. Partygoers bring food and drinks to share, and stuff donations for the musicians into a specially designated birdhouse. For many of the people who frequent the neighborhood party, dubbed the **Birdland Jazz Club and Molli Colti Grill**, it's become a weekly ritual. But Birdland doesn't have a permit, and now host **Michael Parayno** could face a fine of $8,000 or more for continuing to hold parties without one.

While the city's zoning department has reached out to Parayno to help him make the festivities legal, Birdland may not fit neatly into the existing permit categories. It's not a block party. Special-events permits are more typically granted to pondorous commercial events like the **Solano Stroll**, not late-night parties attracting two hundred people or more.

"We're not going to give you a permit to open a jazz club in a residential district," said **Gregory Daniel**, the city's code enforcement supervisor. "No matter what the public sympathy is, he's required to get a permit." And even if the city decides to issue Parayno a permit for the parties, it may not be willing to grant one every Friday. "I can tell you the likelihood of getting a special-event permit every year is much more likely than getting one for every week," Daniel said.

Parayno was cited for zoning violations in early December, and since then, there's been an outpouring of public support. "I've gotten a lot of very positive feedback from people who really like it. The music is wonderful," said Berkeley City Councilwoman **Linda Maio**, whose district includes Parayno's party. "At the same time, we can't just turn our backs on the zoning ordinances."

Parayno, a 46-year-old impresario with charm to spare, chafes at these demands. "I don't think getting together with your neighbors requires a permit," he said. "Maybe another neighborhood might do it once a year, but for us it's a norm to do a barbecue every Friday."

The weekly grill and concert is more homey than a club or bar, and more expansive than a private party. From its origins as a simple Memorial Day cookout, the event has grown steadily, fueled by Parayno's love of the street parties held in developing countries like Brazil, Cuba, and the Philippines. The suburban barbecue — one grill in the backyard, a polite wave to your next door neighbors as you flip burgers alone — is not Parayno's style.

"We're developing a new kind of cultural ethos in the neighborhood," Parayno said. And it's precisely some of the event's zoning issues — the way the party spills out into the street, the futons on the sidewalk, the open door policy — that give it its community vibe, Parayno argues. If the party isn't happening out front, "it just looks like a private club," he said. "It doesn't feel neighborly."

A lecturer in ethnic studies at several Bay Area colleges, Parayno favors hand-rolled cigarettes, and he wouldn't look out of place in a velvet smoking jacket. (His RateMyProfessors.com profile has largely enthusiastic comments, as well as a chili pepper icon that marks him as a "hottie.") But Parayno's best known in Berkeley as the Bird Man, for his profitable sideline in artisanal birdhouses. Made of recycled materials, the birdhouses have won numerous awards and can cost from around $40 to several hundred dollars apiece. In 2005, the birdhouse business was doing so well that Parayno was profiled as a local high-roller, with a BMW and a $5,000 Bulgari watch. (He modestly told a reporter that the watch only represented "twenty birdhouses.")

Parayno operates with a certain flair, and he's good at enlisting collaborators. The economy may not be so flush any longer, but putting on the barbecues is a priority for him. After he overdrew his credit card twice, he thought about cutting back on the free food, he said. Instead, several friends stepped in to take turns paying for the barbecue. Over the summer, the weekly parties were propelled by the enthusiasm of a group of international students who live in the same building as Parayno, and who saw the parties as a quintessential American experience. Then Parayno's neighbor **Paul Lynch**, a musician and UC Berkeley librarian, offered to bring his jazz trio to the party. The musicians squeezed into the garage, sharing space with an old Volvo. The live music was such a success, Parayno says, that over the next few weeks he got rid of the car, built a small stage, ordered some leather couches, and asked a friend to make a neon sign in homage to New York's famous **Birdland Jazz Club**. It features two birds, one playing a saxophone and one playing the bass.

Parayno isn't overstating the party's neighborhood vibe. It attracts Germans and Brazilians and Colombians, soccer moms and frustrated entrepreneurs, grad students and professors, next-door neighbors and the residents of a nearby co-op. Many come back week after week to chat up new people and say hello again. It's an easy place to fall into conversation, and there's a distinct international vibe. One of the regulars has been nicknamed "senza fondo," Italian for "bottomless" or "eats without end." Then there's Larry, another regular, a 69-year-old with the enormous wispy beard of an Old Testament patriarch. Larry usually eats oatmeal right before the barbecue. "I come for the ambiance," he said. For him, having a regular Friday night party in the neighborhood has been nothing short of revolutionary. "I'm not usually welcome at places I go," he explained. "There's a lot to be said for being welcome."

At the last party of the year, on December 17, Parayno tried to deal with the code complaints by bringing the party off the street and into his house. The futons were off the sidewalk, but the enormous grill was still smoking in Parayno's driveway. There were strings of lights in the trees, and next to the grill, a television inside an enormous birdhouse was playing a **Manny Pacquiao** fight. The night had started with lanky teenagers from the Berkeley High School jazz ensemble lining up for barbecue in preparation for their early set. By 11 p.m., the party was in full swing. Parayno had hung soundproofing on the door of the garage, and inside, in the low, brick-floored room, twenty people were dancing energetically in the middle of the floor, and another twenty were sitting on the sidelines listening to the music.

"This is one of the funkiest venues I've ever been to," said percussionist **Rafael Ramirez**, who played in the first set with **Nerin DeGracia Mambo Jazztet**.

Liz Ogbu, a 34-year-old architect from Oakland, was attending the barbecue for the first time. "You would never get this in San Francisco," she said. At most clubs, she said, "Everyone kind of goes to hang out with their own small group." But here, "You had high school kids dancing. ... The idea that everyone could come and dance their heart out, that was very cool."

It's easy to see why Parayno's parties are so alluring, but their enchantment is magnified thanks to the row upon row of birdhouses that line his back patio. And that, it turns out, is part of Parayno's problem. He's not only on the hook for a potential $8,000 fine for the barbecues, but he also owes $24,000 in other fines for using his residential address as a birdhouse manufacturing site and retail store. In fact, Parayno's zoning violations date back to 2003, Daniel said. He got an initial fine cut in half by promising to move his birdhouse business to Fresno, Daniel said. Then the birdhouses reappeared on Sacramento Street. Parayno argues that his birdhouse business is low impact and benefits the community. He collected a stack of letters from friends and neighbors testifying in support of his work. As he's doing now with the Birdland parties, Parayno said that his business, with its local flavor and unique charm, deserved special status.

But this line of defense didn't fly at Parayno's administrative hearing in October. The hearing officer reduced Parayno's total fines from $24,000 to $12,000, but only if he paid the money right away or negotiated a payment plan. But after the Birdland violations, Daniel said, the Code Enforcement Department is not going to negotiate a plan.

"We're not going to give you a break when you're constantly breaking the law," he said. Unless he can pay right away, this puts Parayno on the line for a $24,000 payment. Daniel said it could be worse. Parayno has been warned he could be fined $500 a day for the eight code violations related to his parties. Given his history, Daniel said, Code Enforcement could have doubled that, to $1,000.

For now, the Birdland barbecue nights are on break for the holidays. Parayno has a meeting scheduled with a city official in January to see if they can work out a reasonable permitting plan. He said he could be willing to pay $128 a week for a special-event permit, but he doesn't want to have to register and re-register the event every week. The barbecue is already running at a modest loss — on December 17, Parayno's donations totaled $1,108, while the money for the food and musicians ran about $140 over that.

But he remains undeterred. "Berkeley should be honoring me," Parayno said. "Someday, I'm going to get the key to this city, and I'm going to stick it up somebody's ass." ●

To share this story, type: bit.ly/pc/Birdland

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

EVENTS&ATTRACTIONS

More Mooney

The legendary comedian comes to the Black Rep

It's common wisdom among up-and-coming comedians that the quickest and easiest way to reach even mainstream success is to censor yourself. But for **Paul Mooney**, it was just the opposite. He got his start writing two-bit jokes for broad television comedies like *Sanford and Son* and *Good Times*, but it wasn't until a skin-crawlingly preposterous *Saturday Night Live* sketch called "Word Association" — in which **Richard Pryor**, the episode's guest host, endures an escalatingly racist word-association game at the hands of job interviewer **Chevy Chase** — that Mooney really found his voice as one of the most unflinchingly honest comedians around. The sketch is hilarious in a completely uncomfortable way, and even some 35 years later remains both an incisive social commentary and one of the show's ballsiest sketches ever.

Since then, it appears that Mooney has never looked back, first as head writer for longtime friend and collaborator Pryor's eponymous television show, and more recently as a frequent guest on *Chappelle's Show* and in his own stand-up shows, books, and movies. Mooney seems to be fascinated by the most notoriously prickly subjects — race, politics, celebrity — which is always a tricky proposition. Go just a hair too far, and you risk alienating your audience. Mooney has probably alienated plenty of people, and there's a very fine line between being a boundary pusher and being plainly offensive. But Mooney is better than almost anyone at striking that sweet spot, and his humor works because it's grounded in something unmistakably genuine. It's much more than shock for shock's sake. Take his first appearance on *Letterman* in 2007, for example: Mooney managed to mercilessly skewer **Michael Richards**, the Clintons, the show's audience, the TSA, and **Barack Obama** — and even invent a particularly groan-inducing double entendre involving **George W. Bush** and **Condoleezza Rice** — within the space of about six minutes. Then he launched into an earnest and startlingly insightful rumination on the use of the N-word and the nature of comedy. It may be unexpected to watch someone who's famous for being funny get serious on a dime, but it's also thrilling for the same reason. Sometimes seriousness is the biggest shock of all.

Mooney — and his sons, billed only as the **Mooney Twins** — comes to the **Black Repertory Theater** (3201 Adeline St., Berkeley) this week for a series of eleven shows over five days, Monday through Friday, December 27-31; see web site for full schedule. $25-$100. 510-652-2120 or BlackRepertoryGroup.com

— *Ellen Cushing*

Paul Mooney

Tammy M. Sloan

To share this story, type: eba.ly/pr/paulmooney

ATTRACTIONS

New Year's Victorian Tour and Tea Tea and tour of the [illegible] house, built in 1884 [illegible] guests are [illegible] period clothing. Sun., Jan. 2, 12:30, 2 & 3:30 p.m. $35. Cohen-Bray House, 1440 29th Ave., Oakland.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

New Year's Eve [illegible] With traditional Cuban dance music by [illegible]. Fri., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. $25-$30. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Winter Wonderland: A Holiday Celebration Visit the [illegible] at the corner of Webster St. and Pacific Ave. for various holiday-themed activities and events for children and adults. Through Dec. 30. Free. Webster St. and Pacific Ave., Webster St. and Pacific Ave., Alameda.

KIDS

[illegible] Railroad Show and Open House See the Society's [illegible]-scale model railroad, one of the largest in the country. Last Friday of every month. 8:30 p.m. $3, $2 kids and seniors. [illegible] Creek [illegible] Society, 2751 [illegible] Vista Ave., [illegible] Creek.

New Year's Eve Balloon Drop With games. Fri., Dec. 31, 10:45 a.m., 12:45 & 3:45 p.m. $4 per child, plus museum admission. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall A fundraiser for Pleasanton-area children's [illegible] with live music, a DJ, appetizers, several no-host bars, and a champagne toast. Visit http://TheBallAtTheMall.org for more information and to buy tickets. Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. $75-$100. Stoneridge Shopping Center, [illegible] Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton. ShopStoneridge.com.

[illegible] Black and Gold Ball With spoken word and slam poetry, [illegible] dancing, a champagne toast, and food and drink for sale. Featuring performances by [illegible]. Fri., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. $20. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

"[illegible]" New Year's Eve Party With a VIP party (10 p.m.-8 p.m.; $50) featuring [illegible] and live [illegible] music, after which the party will be opened up ($10) for more [illegible], as well as a DJ and champagne toast. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $10-$50. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-749-0332. ForbiddenIslandAlameda.com.

USS [illegible] New Year's Eve [illegible] Party With live swing and jazz music, dance lessons, and a silent auction to benefit the Hornet's educational programs. Fri., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. $49-$85. USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] Village Site Walk Walk to the ancient [illegible] village site and learn about the East Bay's [illegible] legacy. For ages 7 and older. Advance registration requested; visit EBParks.org. Sun., Jan. 2, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

Polar Bear Plunge Ring in the new year with a swim in the unheated water. With contests and prizes. Sat., Jan. 1, noon. $15 in advance, $20 day-of. Pleasant Hill Aquatic Park, 147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. 925-682-0896. PleasantHillRec.com.

SPORTS SPECTATOR

Cal Women's Basketball vs. Stanford Sun., Jan. 2, 12:30 p.m. $5-$12. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-8581. CalBears.com/Families/Haas-Pavilion.html.

Golden Gate [illegible] Dollar Days Sundays. $1. Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. 510-559-7300. GoldenGateFields.com.

PICKS

Will Durst

The [illegible] renown **Will Durst** has been asked back to the Bay Area eighteen years in a row. The comedian's **New Year's Eve show** — in which he satirizes the year's biggest news stories and cultural figures — is legendary. This year, he'll be joined by **Mari Magaloni**, **Michael Bossier**, **Debi Durst**, and **Arthur Gaus** at **Rhythmix Cultural Works** (2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda) on Friday, Dec. 31, 7 and 10 p.m. $25-$35. 510-865-5060 or Rhythmix.org — *Ellen Cushing*

Polar Bear Plunge

If [illegible] Pleasant Hill and will [illegible] into a near-freezing [illegible] the day after the biggest party night of the year isn't your idea of fun, that's because it's probably not supposed to be. But if you've got the willpower, there's something symbolic and subtly baptismal about the idea of ringing in the new year by jumping into freezing cold water, as folks are encouraged to do at the **Pleasant Hill Aquatic Center**'s (147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill) annual **Polar Bear Plunge** on Sunday, Jan. 1. Certificates and prizes will also be on hand. Noon. $15-$20. 925-682-0896 or PleasantHillRec.com — *E.C.*

Will Durst

St. Mary's Men's Basketball

How about [illegible] with a cheer? The **St. Mary's College men's basketball team** has given East Bay fans a lot to holler about as of late, going deep into the NCAA tournament back in spring. They wrap up the non-league part of their 2010-11 schedule on Friday, Dec. 31, when they host the **Hartford University Stags** at **McKeon Pavilion** (1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga). Considering the Galloping Gaels are undefeated at home this year, it's a pretty good bet that spectators will walk out with a warm glow on their way to more celebratory events that evening. 5 p.m. $8-$18. SMCGaels.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

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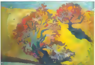
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Chuck Overton's "Diablo Buckeyes."

Out and About

Two little-known venues expand the East Bay roster

Recently a reader found fault with art reviews printed here just before shows end. That happens because, until recently, many galleries shared the same monthly schedule, and there's a time lag of seven to ten days between gallery visit and publication; the result is occasional jam-ups, especially late in the cycle. However, now that shows are being extended beyond four weeks (thanks to the recession), timeliness should improve. In addition, the four-hundred-word reviews sometimes cover more than one show, as is the case this week. So much for housekeeping.

A pair of shows in venues off the beaten track continue the Abstract Expressionist-influenced Bay Area figurative tradition. *Painters x 3* at San Pablo Art Gallery features works by **Donna Fenstermaker**, **Mark Lightfoot**, and **Chuck Overton**, while, at Subterranean Arthouse, in downtown Berkeley, **Michelle Lynn Dyrness** and **Jennell Belt** are showing paintings and glass assemblages, respectively. (Due to the holidays, checking the schedules online and calling ahead are advised.)

At the San Pablo gallery, nature is the common theme. Fenstermaker's minimalist water-soluble oil landscapes of San Rafael and China Camp, with their simplified planar forms, seem indebted to Milton Avery and evocative rather than descriptive. Overton's graphically powerful oils ("Carquinez Strait II," "Diablo Buckeyes," "Point Reyes Dairy," "Martinez Slough") derive from Park, Diebenkorn, Weeks, St. John, and perhaps a couple of the usual Postimpressionist suspects. And Lightfoot's mixed-media abstractions ("Chrysalis," "Totems," "Archaeology," "Nebula," "In Flight") reassemble visual sense impressions in order to synthesize the effect of nature without, to paraphrase Francis Bacon, the bother of its conveying its appearance. Overton: "Where a casual observer may see a patch of weeds, I see a compositional opportunity." *Painters x 3* runs through January 9 at **San Pablo Art Gallery** (13831 San Pablo Ave., Building 5, San Pablo). 510-215-3103 or Ci.San-Pablo.ca.us/main/artgallery.htm

In Berkeley, the focus is divided between the female figure and the poetic artifact. Dyrness' gouache/charcoal paintings contain figures that merge with and emerge from veils of organic shapes: "fragmented pieces of ... abstract form." With their female-archetype titles from mythology and art history ("Persephone," "Eve," "Delilah," "Olympia," "Susannah"), it's easy to posit feminist content, but the artist is more concerned with subconscious and subjectivity. Belt's glass/metal pieces seem more wall jewelry than autonomous sculpture, but a couple of pieces in antique oval frames ("Chanel" and an untitled piece) use their elegant eye appeal to good mysterious effect. *Dyrness/Belt* runs through January 9 at **Subterranean Arthouse** (2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 510-981-1281 or SubterraneanArtHouse.org.

— DeWitt Cheng

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ART GALLERIES

Actual Café, Holiday Home Art Show Featuring work by Brian Richardson, Eva Silverman, and Alexis Rabeyon, as well as prints and Actual merchandise for sale. Through Jan. 13, 2011. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-653-3388, ActualCafe.com

Albatross Pub, Paintings by Lisa Stadorf Through Jan. 28, 2011. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com

Arbitrat Salon and Gallery, New Works on Paper Work by Alan Ronstant. Through Jan. 30, 2011. 1887 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-2830, ArbitratSalon.com.

Autobody Fine Art, The Last Isle of Raytean Through Jan. 28, 2011. 1507 Park Street, Alameda.

Bancroft Hotel, Sky, Rock, Moon and Illuminated Quotes from the Song of Songs Work by Marcia Falk, in collaboration with Stephen Berman. Through Jan. 31, 2011. 2680 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1000, BancroftHotel.com/html

Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, Petal, Light and Shadows photography by Pamela Ruhl, with an artist's reception Wed. Jan. 19, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Through Jan. 19, 2011. Bldg. 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley Art Center Members Showcase With work by the Center's members, focused around the theme "green." Through Jan. 23, 2011. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893, BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Historic Photographs from Burma/Myanmar by Vaughn Hovanessian. Through Dec. 30. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Casa Una Volta, Life on Location Work by Davidee Davis and Sene Hatoite. Through Feb. 28, 2011. 1332 ½ Park St., Alameda. 510-788-4878, CasaUnaVolta.us.

Dale Hill California, Historic Landmarks of Oakland California Watercolors by Randi Nyeda. Through Jan. 1, 2011. 1233 Preservation Park Way, Oakland.

Cafe Zoe, Art at Cafe Zoe: Renee Dutcher Through Jan. [illegible], 2011. 6000 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-4063.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, The Moderns With work by Jason Kalogiros, Marco Lutz, and Jonathan Runcio. Through Jan. 22, 2011. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494, ChandraCerrito.com.

Creative Growth Art Center, Center Season Creative Growth's annual holiday art show, featuring work by people with developmental and physical disabilities. Through Jan. 14, 2011. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340, CreativeGrowth.org.

David Brower Center, Running the Numbers Work by Chris Jordan. Through Jan. 7, 2011. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Esteban Gallery, Water Retention Work by Jean Beaton. Through Jan. 7, 2011. 175 13th St., Oakland. 510-287-1388.

El Cerrito Library, Photography by Reese Reese Nature images and landscapes by the Berkeley-based photographer. Through Jan. 6, 2011. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-7512, CCCLib.org.

Expressions Gallery, Reese Reese With art in various media, as well as handmade jewelry, dishware and more, by local artists. Through Jan. 7, 2011. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930, ExpressionsGallery.org.

Holiday Art Gallery, Time and Place New photography by Sue Ford, Dave Mendell and Gil Rosenthal. Through Dec. 31. 1925 Workshop Ave., El Cerrito. 510-593-9081.

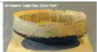
Firehouse Arts Center, Paintbrush Diplomacy With work by children ages 5-18. Through Jan. 12, 2011. $2 suggested donation. 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 925-846-1601, www.PleasantonArtsFoundation.org.

Float Center, The Mechanics of Disaster Collage and sculpture by Shelly Bascom and Benjamin Cavellas, respectively. Through Jan. 29, 2011. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702, TheFloatCenter.com.

The Hive Gallery, Bright Night Group show of small works. Through Dec. 31. 2011 Jefferson St., Oakland. 925-212-6228.

Institute of East Asian Studies, Crystal of

PICKS



Ani Kasten's "Large Green Cloister Bowl."

DeWitt Cheng

Rhythmic Sequences

Creationists two centuries ago explained away fossils as sacred fakes — simulacra of nonexistent creatures — divinely created 6,000 years earlier to test the faith of unborn paleontologists. Time is illusively embedded as well in the artworks of **Sanjay Vora** and **Ani Kasten**, combinations of abstract form and archaeo-looking surfaces seemingly bleached by time and weather. Vora's highly impasted acrylic/oil paintings, striped, hatched and perforated, reveal, under the right light, figures and landscapes taken from the artist's family snapshots ("20," "Ragorbi," "In Her Element"). These "metaphysical veil[s,] residue[s] left by repeated acts of longing," with their implied [illegible] calligraphies, depict the conversion of fleeting reality into permanent symbol. Kasten's ceramic sculptures seem similarly ancient, with their powerful tan and wood shapes redolent of [illegible] Egypt, Mexico, and China ("Cairn," "White Boat," "Bottle Still Life"). *Rhythmic Sequences* (also featuring jewelry by **Ellen Bongfeldt**) runs through January 8 at **Vessel Gallery** (471 25th St., Oakland). 510-893-8800 or Vessel-Gallery.com — *DeWitt Cheng*

Plot

The title of this two-person show punningly has two meanings: plot as narrative and plot as piece of land. **Samantha Lautman**'s large graphite drawings ("Cemetery," "Flight," and "The Crowd") and graphite-acrylic painting ("The Apartment") depict groups of people engaged in various activities, as seen from high vantage points. The narratives are unclear, as in drawings in her previous show at **Kala Gallery** depicting real life and activity from a god's-eye perspective. Plots of the real estate type and the symbolism of architecture are explored instead in **Jeff Ray**'s mixed-media, pedestal-mounted architectural sculptures in sheet metal ("Commerce Building," "Home (Basic)," "Cultural Center," and "Spiritual Center"), which include sound effects and LED lighting. The dark unadorned forms, rusting and sharp-edged, have a rather sinister, totalitarian air on third thought. *Plot* runs through January 2 at **Royal Nonesuch Gallery** (4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 415-690-3941 or RoyalNonesuchGallery.com — *D.C.*

[illegible] Arabic Chinese calligraphy by [illegible] Through March 4, 2011. 2222 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-6536, IEAS.berkeley.edu.

Johansson Projects. [illegible] Work by [illegible] Through Jan. 8, 2011. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Joyce Gordon Gallery. Things Left Behind New work by [illegible] Through Dec. 31. 406 14th St., Oakland. [illegible] JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden. Crafty New work by local artists. Through Dec. 31. 1223 Park St., Alameda. [illegible] JuliesTea.com.

Kala Gallery and Art Institute. Kala [illegible] Annual Exhibition New work in various media by over 100 artists affiliated with Kala. Through Jan. 15, 2011. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

[illegible] Photography [illegible] and video and installation by [illegible] Through Jan. 22, 2011. 480 23rd St., Oakland.

[illegible] · Art, Lil Tuffy 3 Prints and [illegible] by the local designer. Through Jan. 22, 2011. 412 22nd St. [illegible] 510-[illegible] [illegible].com.

La Peña Cultural Center. Work by [illegible] Pencil and pastel drawings. Through Dec. 31. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

[illegible] Gallery. Brought to Light With large-scale [illegible] paintings by [illegible] and digital [illegible] by [illegible] Through Feb. 4, 2011. 1271 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-558-0993.

Mercury 20 Gallery. [illegible] Artist's [illegible] by [illegible] With a reception Fri., Jan. 7, [illegible] Through Dec. 28. 2011. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7785. Mercury20Gallery.com.

[illegible] Oil paintings by [illegible] Through Dec. 31. 2517 Sacramento St., Berkeley.

MOCHA. [illegible] Work by children participating in the Environmental Poetry and Art [illegible] Through Jan. 30, 2011. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

[illegible] Art Center. Art from the [illegible] Featuring over 60 works by the Institute's artists and staff. Through Dec. 31. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-[illegible] NIAD Art.org.

[illegible] Art Gallery. Town and Country Photography by [illegible] and [illegible] Through Jan. 14, 2011. 1837 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Work by [illegible] Through Jan. 18, 2011. 447 25th St., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery. Best of 2010: 8 Year [illegible] Photographs Through Feb. 3, 2011. [illegible] Emeryville.

Pro Arts. [illegible] Juried Artists 2011 Featuring work selected by the [illegible] Through Jan. 14, 2011. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] New sculptures by [illegible] Through Jan. 22, 2011. 336 40th St., [illegible] 510-384-5344, [illegible]

[illegible].com.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery. Plot New work by Samantha Lautman and Jeff Ray. Through Jan. 2, 2011. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] in Wonderland Work by [illegible] and [illegible] Through Feb. 1, 2011. 1728 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Contemporary Art and Design Gallery. [illegible] Through Jan. 29, 2011. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Studio [illegible] Art Center. [illegible] Portraits by [illegible] Through Jan. 5, 2011. [illegible] Oakland. 510-[illegible] [illegible].com/studio.

Swarm Studios + Gallery. Things and Expanding Group show. Through Jan. 16, 2011. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. [illegible] [illegible] photographs by [illegible] Through Jan. 10, 2011. 121 North Gate Hall #5860, Berkeley. 510-642-6000. Journalism.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Sculpture [illegible] Works, Important Presence Work by [illegible] Kija Lucas, Jenna North and [illegible] Through Jan. 3, 2011. 200 40th St., Oakland. [illegible].com.

Woody's Cafe. [illegible] Found art by [illegible] Through Jan. 1, 2011. 1841 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-[illegible] WoodysCafe [illegible]

Ygnacio Valley Library. Carol [illegible]: Wonderland Through Dec. 31, 2011. [illegible] Oak Grove Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-938-1481. [illegible]

More Listings Online

Get info about dozens more SF art events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. [illegible] Early Ambassadors to San Francisco, 1860-1927 Art and other media created and inspired by the first wave of Japanese ambassadors and cultural emissaries in San Francisco. Through Dec. 21, 2011. **[illegible] Golden [illegible]: Five [illegible] of Japanese Screens** [illegible] large-scale Japanese screen paintings. Through Jan. 30, 2011. **In a New Light** [illegible] 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. [illegible] Paintings by Hans Hofmann. Through June 30, 2011. **Matrix 236 [illegible]** [illegible] Through March 6, 2011. **[illegible]** Commissioned work includes sculpture and furniture carved in abstract designs. Through Nov. 30, 2011. **[illegible]** [illegible] exploration of corporate branding, with work by Jeff Crouse. Through Nov. 30, 2011. **[illegible] Light: Alternative**

Film and Video in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-2000 Featuring posters, [illegible] from the Bay Area's rich history of alternative filmmaking. Through March 6, 2011. [illegible] 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. [illegible]

[illegible] Museum. Alfa Romeo [illegible] Exhibition Three [illegible] concept automobiles from Alfa Romeo [illegible] Daily. 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville. 925-736-2280. BlackhawkMuseum.org.

de Young Museum. [illegible], After Hiroshige Retrospective of works by the contemporary American artist. Through Jan. 30, 2011. **[illegible]** With over 50 [illegible] from Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Through Jan. 9, 2011. **Van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne and Beyond: Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the Musée d'Orsay** [illegible] Post-Impressionist paintings from the Musée d'Orsay's collection. Through Jan. 18, 2011. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Exploratorium. [illegible] of Life A collection of exhibits and [illegible] stations examining the fundamental elements common to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0363. Exploratorium.edu.

Habitot Children's Museum. [illegible] Game [illegible] [illegible] Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. [illegible] From the permanent collection, a selection of [illegible] from China, Egypt, and Peru plus [illegible] in Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **[illegible]** [illegible] exhibition [illegible] from the museum's collection of [illegible] Californian cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Museum of Mosaic Art. [illegible] A celebration of [illegible] in mosaic. Daily. **[illegible]** [illegible] An ongoing group show. Daily. [illegible] Oakland. 510-437-9200. [illegible]

Lawrence Hall of Science. [illegible] (HOS) New permanent exhibit features an animated globe [illegible] Daily. **[illegible]** [illegible] Through Jan. 2, 2011. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Legion of Honor. Japanesque: The Japanese Print in the Era of Impressionism An exploration of the relationship between [illegible] Impressionist art and Japanese prints of the 18th and 19th centuries. Through Jan. 8, 2011. 34th Ave. and Clement St., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. LegionofHonor.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum. [illegible] Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of archival documentary and experimental films. Daily. **[illegible] Lab** Interactive [illegible] allows visitors to create digital family albums and [illegible] based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Museum of the African Diaspora. African Art in Context An exhibition of [illegible] African [illegible] Through Jan. 9, 2011. 685 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-358-7200. MoADSF.org.

Oakland Museum of California. [illegible] 20 Years of Animation With over 500 works by the artists of Emeryville's Pixar Studios. Through Jan. 9, 2011. $8-$12. Free for children and members. **[illegible]** **The Marvelous Museum** A site-specific exhibition based on and inspired by the Oakland Museum's art and history collections. Through Jan. 9, 2011. Free-$12. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum. [illegible] Pinball Exhibit With 85 [illegible] and 20 woodgrounds from Larry Zartarian's collection. [illegible] Daily. $15, under 12 $7.50. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6959. PacificPinball.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. How Wine Became Modern: Design + Wine 1976 to Now An examination of the relationship between wine and art, architecture and design. Through April 17, 2011. **[illegible]** A site-specific installation created to honor the Museum's 75th anniversary. Through Oct. 10, 2011. **Matisse and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection** Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by [illegible] Daily. **[illegible] Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collection. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of [illegible] graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's [illegible] holdings, photos by Imogen Cunningham, Walker Evans, [illegible] et al. Daily. **[illegible]** Paintings on wood panels. Through Jan. 16, 2011. **[illegible] The [illegible] Century** A retrospective of [illegible] photojournalist's work. Through Jan. 30, 2011. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMOMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum. [illegible] Through [illegible] [illegible] Daily. **[illegible] Experience** [illegible] the story of [illegible] Japanese-American [illegible] who fought for the US in WWII. [illegible] Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org.

[illegible] A [illegible] exhibit for kids that provides [illegible] access to arts, media, and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-777-2800. Zeum.org.

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THEATER & DANCE

Nick Flanagan

I'm Here All Week

Call it hipsterfication. Or mass exodus. Or a tidal shift. In the last couple years stand-up comedy has garnered an increasing number of refugees from other parts of the oral tradition: hip-hop, theater, slam poetry, and now, rock music. Canadian rocker **Nick Flanagan** is the latest example of a bandleader who decided he was so quippy and cool, he had to advance to the next level of ostentation. Flanagan began his performing arts career as lead singer for the thrash band **Brutal Knights** — a role he perfected by stage-diving in his underwear. Of course, stand-up seemed like the logical next step.

NICK FLANAGAN
I'm Here All Week

Ergo: Flanagan's inaugural comedy album *I'm Here All Week*, released on the yukster-oriented **Talent Moat** label (also home to **Brent Weinbach** and **Rocky Sinister**). For a debut, it's not bad. Flanagan comes from the Twitter school of humor, in that he traffics in quick word play and set-up/punch-line jokes, most of which could be written in 140 characters or less. "I had sex with a unicorn the other day," he says in one of the album's more inspired moments. "Afterwards it remained horny. As did I." Most of his humor is funny in a scratch-your-head kind of way. The jokes aren't context-dependent. They seem disconnected from one another. They burst with wordplay.

Whereas a more practiced comedian might string his bits together to create some kind of narrative, Flanagan is all about the one-liners. He moves from thing to thing at a relatively fast clip, allowing just enough time for the laughs to settle. He'll revisit a few pet topics — poop, sex with animals, the war in Iraq, the Internet, and his penis fixation — but never develop them. He flirts with current events but doesn't make any concrete political statements. Most of the content is scatological and puerile. Flanagan wishes his balls were filled with shit, so that when he told someone to "eat shit," he'd get fellated. He deems lizards "unfuckable." He asks if anyone in the crowd has ever shagged a horse. "I hope the answer is 'neigh.'"

It's hard to tell how well the audience takes these verbal meanderings, since Flanagan's laugh-per-minute ratio is actually pretty thin. You can imagine a lot of people just smiling and nodding. Then again, laugh volume might not be the best metric for success, anyway. Flanagan certainly proves that he can remain funny for a sustained amount of time, which is difficult for a newcomer. Moreover, his topics are wonderfully contemporary. He jabs at burlesque, e-mail subject lines, iPads, and white rappers. And just to cement his hipster credential, Flanagan devotes an entire bit to "irony."

Flanagan seems to have the right genetic wiring for stand-up. He talks slow enough and enunciates words clearly. He's terrific at observational humor. He's able to see normal, quotidian things from a weird angle. He knows how to create rapport with an audience. That said, he'll have to work hard if he wants to completely switch fields. Gracing an audience in your tighty whities might take some guts, but it doesn't require much in the way of talent. Comedy is a lot more difficult. It's also more fulfilling. (Talent Moat)

— *Rachel Swan*

To share this story, type: ebx.by/nickflanagan

COMEDY

Anjelah Johnson Thu., Dec. 30, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. $30-$40. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

The Business Featuring local comics Sean Keane, Alex Koll, Bucky Sinister and Chris Garcia, with rotating comics. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $5. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-401-7987. DarkRoomSF.com.

Comedy Open Mic Sign-ups at 5:30 p.m., each comic gets 4-5 minutes. Mondays, 7 p.m. $5. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

Second Annual "Not Your Normal New Year's Eve" Featuring Brent Weinbach, Moshe Kasher, Brennan Davis, and Lynn Ruth Miller, hosted by J.F. Bourque. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $25-$59. Herbst Theatre, 800 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. 415-392-4400.

High Street Comedy Hosted by Tom Anderson, with weekly guests. Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Jan. 25. $5-$15. High Street Station, 1303 High Street, Alameda.

John Witherspoon With Luenell and Tony Roberts, hosted by Shaw Gage. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 & 10 p.m. $40-$60. Bal Theatre, 14808 East 14th Street, San Leandro. 510-614-1224.

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show with Will Durst and Friends Improv and stand-up comedy skewering the year's biggest news stories, also featuring Mari Magaloni, Michael Bosover, Gala Duane and Arthur Dunn. Fri., Dec. 31, 7 & 10 p.m. $25-$35. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

Not Your Normal New Year's Eve: A Night of Stand-Up Comedy With Brent Weinbach, Moshe Kasher, Brennan Davis, Lynn Ruth Miller, and host J.F. Bourque. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $25-$59. Herbst Theatre, 800 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. 415-392-4400.

Paul Mooney VIP packages include champagne ($150) or champagne, dinner, autographs, and pictures ($500). Through Dec. 31, 7 & 9 p.m.; Fri., Dec. 31, 11 p.m. $25 general, $50-$100 VIP. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-2120.

Saturday Night Comedy with Ann Randolph, Marie, Ian Shoales, Kessler and Johnny Steele Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $15-25 sliding scale, $50 reserved seats. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

SF Comedy Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m. $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco. 415-397-4337. SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

LIVE VARIETY

Naughty and Nice, A Meg and Billy Christmas Holiday cabaret with husband-and-wife team Meg Mackay and Billy Philadelphia. No show Dec. 24 and 25. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 30. $15-$25. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

The World's Funniest Bubble Show Interactive family-friendly show from The Amazing Bubble Man. Sundays, 11 a.m. Through Dec. 26, 11 a.m. Continues through Jan. 30. $8-$15. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4949. TheMarsh.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Arabian Nights Special holiday presentation of the play based on the famous book. Directed by Mary Zimmerman. Wednesdays-Sundays, 1 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Tuesdays-Thursdays, Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 30. $29-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

The Composer Is Dead Tony Taccone directs actors and puppets alike in this adaptation of Lemony Snicket's story. With a variety of promotions and special events, check Berkeley Rep's website for full details. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 15, 2 & 8 p.m. Continues through Jan. 15. $29-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

Becoming Julia Morgan Play about the famous architect written by Belinda Taylor, directed by Barbara Oliver, and starring Jane Stevens as Morgan. Tickets available at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 510-594-3004. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 9. $18-$30. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

PICKS

Merry Forking Christmas

The original *Forking* was a choose-your-own-adventure play about sex, which may just be the most inspired concept that **Piano Fight** has ever employed. Naturally, the Christmas theme offered fewer possibilities. But playwright **Daniel Heath** (who penned the first *Forking*) found a few ways to liven it up, mostly by incorporating a weed-dealing Santa Claus (Derek Fisher) and a bickering engaged couple (Rachel Ferensowicz and Alex Boyd). The storylines are purposefully thin, mostly to allow audience members to steer the characters' destinies. At several points in the play, **Arlen Hart** plays a two-bar riff on the piano, and the audience votes by applause to decide what happens next. Well, that's exciting. *Merry Forking Christmas* benefits from good character-acting and some delicious sketch comedy by Jed Gabbiani and Gabi Patacoli, who trade off on multiple roles. Through December 30 at **Off Market Theaters** (965 Mission St., San Francisco). $20-$30. PianoFight.com — *Rachel Swan*

Merry Forking Christmas.

Of the Earth

The ancient Greeks left most things in the lap of the Gods, but playwright **Jon Tracy** sees a motivation behind every action. Thus, the issue of free will looms large in much of his works, including those that tackle Greek mythology. This month he presents the second of two "Salt Plays" produced under the auspices of **Shotgun Players**. The first, which debuted this summer, focused on Homer's *Iliad*; this one, titled *Of the Earth*, reexamines *The Odyssey* through a contemporary lens. It's high-concept and low-tech, with actors constantly banging drums in the background. Tracy repurposes several actors from previous plays, such as **Anna Ishida**, who plays a virulent Poseidon, and **Charisse Loriaux**, a sultry seductive Circe. Resonances between the Trojan War and the current situation in Iraq certainly aren't lost on Tracy; he brings them out in creative ways. Lloyd Vance's haunting video projections are both an extension of the characters' psychology and an enhancement of Nina Ball's sparse set design. Through January 16 at **The Ashby Stage** (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $17-$30. ShotgunPlayers.org — *R.S.*

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LECTURES & LIT

Solving Equations, Solving Crimes

Camille Minichino pours her own math-and-physics expertise into her mystery novels

Camille Minichino

The sleuth of **Camille Minichino**'s *Periodic Table Mysteries* is retired physicist Gloria Lamerino. *The Fluorine Murder* involves arson. *The Lithium Murder* involves a dead janitor. *The Beryllium Murder* and *The Nitrogen Murder* both involve Berkeley. Creating Gloria was easy, as Minichino herself has a Ph.D in physics from Fordham University, teaches at Golden Gate University, and is on the staff of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

She drew upon another personal interest for another series, the Miniature Mysteries. Published under the pseudonym Margaret Grace, those five novels feature miniaturist Geraldine Porter, who fashions tiny replica rooms with the same eye for detail that she brings to solving murders, with the help of her preteen granddaughter and fellow crafter Maddie. Like Geraldine, Minichino is a dedicated lifelong miniaturist and dollhouse enthusiast, well versed in craft-fair etiquette and the Lilliputian perfection of thumb-size sofas and lentil-size plates.

Set to launch next summer under the pseudonym Ada Madison, Minichino's newest string of whodunits follows the adventures of spunky college math professor Sophie Knowles.

"My publisher wanted another series, so I dipped into the part of my life that was not yet a mystery series and came up with a college math teacher. I've been teaching college — math, physics, philosophy, and now writing — since the Sixties," says the East Bay author, "so it seemed about time that I created this character."

In *The Square Root of Murder*, set for a July 2011 release, Sophie strives to clear a grad student's name after an unpopular chemistry professor is found slain.

"Sophie is fun to write since she has the same love of numbers that I do," said Minichino, who hosts the **Castro Valley Library**'s (3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley) **Mystery Reading Group**. On Tuesday, January 4, the club discusses Sarah Andrews' novel *In Cold Pursuit*. February's meeting will cover Jennifer Lee Carrell's *Interred With Their Bones*, and March's meeting will address Kathy Reichs' *206 Bones*. New members are always welcome.

Writing about math-professor Sophie is not difficult for Minichino — but she had a bit more trouble when developing Sophie's boyfriend, Bruce, who works as a medivac helicopter pilot. "I wanted someone in the core cast of characters to have an exciting, dangerous job. Math is very exciting to me, but not to everyone, and seldom dangerous. I have a friend who is a pilot with an air-rescue company. He and his colleagues were incredibly generous in talking to me, touring me around their facility, and answering questions."

Sophie's boyfriend is also an ice-climber — "more excitement and danger," noted Minichino, who weaves crafting into this series as well by making Sophie's best friend Ariana the proprietor of a bead shop. When the two pals head together, Ariana urges Sophie to loosen up on the rigidly geometric — that is, mathematical — patterns. 6:30 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story type: ebx.ly/minichino

LECTURES

"artIFACTS" The monthly lecture series for collectors takes place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m., $5-$7. [illegible] Point Naval Air Station, Alameda. 510-747-0220. [illegible]

Mike Gravel The former Alaskan senator discusses the disappearing American middle class. Mon., Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m., free-$5. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-3227. HillsideClub.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Bay Area Word Coalition Open Reading First Saturday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-841-6700.

Bilingual Storytimes for Toddlers Saturdays, 11:30 a.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov

Sharing Books We Love Members take turns discussing books that inspired them. Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books of all genres. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Book Exchange, 10720 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-1840.

SPOKEN WORD

Words & Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month, 4-8 p.m., free. [illegible], 1132-B Park St., Alameda. 510-769-8000. [illegible]

Open Mic Sign-up at 7:30 p.m. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m., $8-$5 suggested donation. [illegible] Lounge, [illegible] Place, Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

Poetry Unearthed Open mic with featured readers, hosted by [illegible]. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-480-2033. WorldGroundCafe.com.

Real Stories: "Gifts: Stories of What We Gave, What We Got, What We Have" With stories by Peter Finch, Carolyn Doyle, Chris Hutton, and [illegible]. Wed., Dec. 29, 7:30-9:15 p.m., $15 at the door, $12 in advance. 1515 Restaurant Lounge, 1515 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-439-1515.

The Unfiltered Event Comedy variety show hosted by [illegible]. Last Wednesday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m., $7. Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St., San Francisco. 415-647-2888. MakeOutRoom.com.

Thursday at Word Beat Spoken word and poetry. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. Angelfire.com/poetry/wordbeat. Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

Works in Progress Linda Zeeve hosts women's open mic with featured poets. First Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9:45 p.m., $5 admission, featured light refreshments. 510-276-0079. Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd, Oakland. 510-339-0822.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

PICKS

Earth's Biggest Calendar Sale

Don't miss a single date in 2011. Every year on New Year's Day all three **Pegasus Bookstores** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley; and 5560 College Ave., Oakland) stage what they call the **Earth's Biggest Calendar Sale**, offering tens of thousands of brand new calendars in diverse formats and themes from top calendar publishers. All calendars are $3.95 each or three for $10. Lines form before the stores open, so be prepared. 10 a.m., free. PegasusBooks.com —*Anneli Rufus*

Mike Gravel

Having represented Alaska in the US Senate from 1969-81, **Senator Maurice "Mike" Gravel** read the *Pentagon Papers* into the *Congressional Record*. At a meeting at the **Hillside Club** (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Monday, Jan. 3, the Democrat-turned-Libertarian and former presidential candidate will be the guest of honor. Gravel's talk is "**Middle Class Erosion: Americans Today**," and will include potential solutions to this dilemma. 7:30 p.m., $5. HillsideClub.org —*A.R.*

Mike Gravel.

Bilingual Preschool Storytime

Being fluent in two languages always beats being fluent in just one. Whether it's *The Peach Boy*, *The Snow Fairy*, *Urashima Taro*, *Cinderella*, or *The Three Little Pigs*, the **Fremont Public Library** (2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont) offers a weekly English-and-Japanese **Bilingual Preschool Storytime**. Conducted in both languages, each half-hour session includes stories, songs, games, read-alongs, and fingerplays for children aged three to five who have not yet started kindergarten. 10:30 a.m., free. ACLibrary.org —*A.R.*

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BODY&SOUL

Eating Seeds

Bauman College proposes another healthy-dining plan

Forget the Food Pyramid. That stodgy old triangle with starches spanning its bottom layer — topped by produce, proteins, then fats and sweets — is promoted by the US Department of Agriculture as a model for healthy eating. But the folks at **Bauman College of Holistic Nutrition and Culinary Arts** (901 Grayson St., Berkeley) want us to visualize the ideal diet as a set of concentric circles.

"It's a mandala, and at its center is seeds and healthy oils," said **Chris Bauman**, an administrator at the college, which was founded in 1989 by her husband **Ed Bauman**, who is also an adjunct faculty member at John F. Kennedy University.

"It radiates outward from there — to proteins, then 'booster foods' such as seaweeds and spices, then to vegetables and fruits, then to starches, then to pure water and broths. If you start with good fats and oils at the heart of your diet, then you're getting a lot of metabolic advantages."

Ed Bauman

The mandala will be further detailed in a lecture series, "**Eight Lessons in Eating for Health and Vitality**," that begins at the college on Tuesday, January 4. The course also covers allergy-free eating, the cleansing powers of complex carbohydrates, and the role of lean proteins and "clean fats" in growth and repair. "Nutrition heroes" and "nutrition bandits" — foods to embrace and avoid — will also be identified.

Just a few decades ago, "managed health care hadn't yet come into being," Bauman. "Illness and disease were dealt with in strictly medical ways. Finally, there was this explosion of knowledge and a new awareness that there might be different modalities from different areas of the world that dealt with illness, disease, and health in ways that are geared toward treating not just symptoms but the whole person. That's what we mean by holistic."

Yoga, acupuncture, and other such practices "are not considered alternatives anymore," she continued. "They're actually considered useful — and the whole vernacular has changed, along with people's goals."

Bauman met her husband by taking one of his classes in 1980. She'd spent two years living in the Caribbean while earning a biology degree and studying coral reefs. "I ate very inexpensively: cheese sandwiches and Cokes. I was overweight, confused, and looking for a new direction." So she started working in a health food store that sold Ed Bauman's book *Eating for Health*. Intrigued, she took his class.

Among the top "nutrition heroes" is coconut oil. "It's a saturated fat, but it's the only saturated fat that doesn't have detrimental effects on your arteries, because it's plant-based." Sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, and flaxseeds "are also outstanding, giving you more bang for your buck" than most snack foods, Bauman said.

The college's plan for healthy eating "is not a diet like the Atkins Diet. It's more of a training process in which people learn how to eat so that every day when they get up they know they're going to enjoy eating and they know what their bodies need." 6 p.m. $495. BaumanCollege.org

— *Anneli Rufus*

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Breast Cancer Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Women Registration required; call 510-268-8312. Third and First Monday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Highland Cancer Education and Prevention Center, 1411 E 31st St., Room 2010, Oakland, 510-268-8833.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Adoption Workshop Hear about the children in your community who need families, get an overview of the adoption process and find out how to begin, and meet an Adopt-a-Special-Kid family who has completed an adoption. First Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. AASK/Adopt a Special Kid, 8201 Edgewater Dr., Ste. 103, Oakland, 510-553-1748 ex. 17. AASK.org.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Annual World Vigil and Healing Meditation Followed by breakfast, Fri., Dec. 31, 7 a.m., free. Unity of San Leandro, 1400 Santa Maria St., San Leandro.

Mindful Drumming: Drumming as Worship Exploration of the intersection between spirituality and rhythm, led by author and musician Kelemen Collins. Last Friday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. Multicultural Healing Connection, Inc., 3270 West St., Emeryville, 510-652-5630. AHC-Oakland.org.

Psychic Tarot Reading Day With tarot, psychic, past life, crystal and intuitive handwriting readings, in addition to drinks and refreshments. Sat., Jan. 1, 11-4 p.m., price varies. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

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YOGA & BODYWORK

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m., $10-$15. InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-465-2797. InterPlay.org.

Pay What You Can Community Yoga Saturdays, 11 a.m., $12.50 suggested donation. Azalea Arts Center, 785 7th St., Oakland, 510-444-4808.

PICKS

Buddhist New Year's Eve

For Buddhists around the world, the New Year is a time of solemn reflection and quiet celebration, a time for pondering past errors and resolving to change for the better. At the **Berkeley Buddhist Priory** (1358 Marin Ave., Albany) on Friday, Dec. 31, a **New Year's Serene Reflection (Soto Zen) Meditation Vigil** is followed by a **New Year's Ceremony** and — at midnight sharp — a festive tea. 9 p.m., free. BerkeleyBuddhistPriory.org — *Anneli Rufus*

New Year's Yoga/Cleanse

A full day of healthy activities on Saturday, Jan. 1 starts with an **all-levels yoga class** at **Adeline Yoga Studio** (3320 Adeline St., Berkeley), then moves to **Cafe Gratitude** (1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley), where colon hydrotherapist **Shira Lynn Beard** discusses colonic irrigation, enema bags, and colema boards, and **Heather Haxo Phillips** discusses cleansing and tools for hosting raw foods. Raw lunch and samples will be provided. 11 a.m. $ RawBayArea.com — *A.R.*

Wild Goose Qigong Course

Based on a -year-old system whose 64 movements mimic the graceful wild goose, Wild Goose Qigong is said to promote the flow of life-energy or qi while lowering stress, increasing flexibility, reducing aches and pains, boosting concentration, and enhancing immunity. A sixteen-week **Wild Goose Qigong course** begins at **Energy Matters Acupuncture and Qigong** (4321 Piedmont Ave., Oakland) on Tuesday, Jan. 4. 6:30 p.m. $255. EnergyMattersEastBay.com — *A.R.*

Beginning Yoga Course

Why not make this the New Year you make yoga a part of your life? **Nancy Leigh Smith** leads a four-week **yoga-from-the-ground-up course** that starts on Wednesday, Jan. 5, at **Yoga in the Middle** (20301 Palm Dr., Suite 235, Castro Valley). Beginning with basic symmetrical poses, the course builds up to more difficult poses as well as meditation techniques and philosophical points, with handouts for home practice provided. 7:30 p.m. $70. YogaintheMiddle.com — *A.R.*

Heather Haxo Phillips.

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AQUARIUM AGE

LIKE SO MANY POPPING CORKS

For the week of December 29, 2010-January 4, 2011

By Ralfee Finn

It's a hard week that ends an even harder year, so before you lose yourself in bacchanalian revels on New Year's Eve, take more than a moment to look back and take stock. Unfortunately, for many of us reflecting on what the year has wrought won't be easy. It was an enormously intense year, which is why New Year resolutions (no matter how dramatic the promises of behavior modification might be) are certain to resemble pleas for help rather than a list of goals. And because even the air feels edgy this week, corks of all kinds — not just champagne — are certain to pop as you, someone you love, or complete strangers find it impossible to contain potent feelings previously held at bay.

As we look back, the visual icons for 2010 won't be Tea Party placards. Smoke belching from a frozen volcano and oil leaking from a rupture on the ocean floor are much better symbols for what the planet and her inhabitants could no longer hold back. As emotions, yours or others', continue to erupt over the course of the next several days, try to keep in mind that as startling as those outbursts may be, they are actually in keeping with the tone of the year. For those not setting the air on fire, breathing is the best solution for tension. One other bit of help: Mercury goes Direct on December 30.

Several astral forces contribute to the intensity of the week, but the hard edge is provided by a Mars/Saturn square. This is a perilous interaction that leans toward harsh, bitter criticism. Be aware. Much of the abuse generated by this square is likely to be a defensive mechanism disguised as a preemptive strike — as in, "I'll get you before you get me." Avoid getting sucked into a vortex of negative energy. Vengeance, while immediately gratifying, solves nothing. Simply refuse to engage in negative interactions of any kind. By next week, the worst of this square will be behind us.

We are also caught between two eclipses, a position that contributes to the work of the week. The solstice lunar eclipse put a period at the end of two years of Saturn/Uranus oppositions in the Mutable Signs of Virgo and Pisces. The solstice eclipse occurred at the same degree as the final exact contact in that series of oppositions; it also took place in Mutable Signs. The solar eclipse on January 4, 2011 occurs in Capricorn, a Cardinal Sign.

Mutable Signs are the peacemakers of the zodiac; Cardinal Signs are the initiators. And when they demand action, compromise often takes a back seat. This is not the stubborn resistance of a Fixed Sign. It's simply an irrepressible need to move. Jupiter and Uranus both enter Cardinal Signs early in 2011. What's important to recognize, now, on the threshold of the coming year, is how this week presages the transition from a Mutable to a Cardinal frequency. Pay particular attention to what you can no longer tolerate or pretend to tolerate.

It's been a hard year, not without its growth opportunities, but difficult nevertheless. Don't allow the last days of the voyage to harden your heart. As you navigate the intensity, let compassion be your compass, and let it guide you safely to the shores of kindness.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES The challenge this week is figuring out how to avoid blame or blaming. Neither give nor accept a pointed finger. Instead, do all that's necessary to maintain a neutral stance.

TAURUS Heartfelt exchanges with significant others offer opportunities for healing, but you must be willing to put aside pride and be humble. This isn't about being submissive; it's about being sincere.

GEMINI Rather than dwell on what isn't working, concentrate on what is. Apply your innate ability to turn lead into gold and you'll create a positive and practical solution.

CANCER It looks like a partnership problem, but at the core this is about your relationship with yourself. Take the time to get in touch with what you really want and need.

LEO A little restraint goes a long way, especially when it comes to demands on others for time and attention. You don't have to disappear, but it would be wise to practice moderation.

VIRGO Don't use "tough love" as a self-righteous excuse to blow off steam. If you are going to apply a stern attitude, make sure the situation merits it.

LIBRA As disruption continues to ripple across the surface of your psychic pond, your first instinct is to try to conceal it — but that's not possible. The only choice is surrendering your attachment to the outcome.

SCORPIO Give yourself permission to be uncomfortable with certain circumstances and you'll avoid projecting your worst thoughts onto situations that are confusing and out of your control.

SAGITTARIUS If you can refrain from spending more than you have, you could be surprised by waves of happy feelings. Who knows? You might create a solvent New Year.

CAPRICORN The secret to your success is believing in yourself and trusting in your ability to problem solve. This is your gift — finding solutions and then integrating those ideas into action.

AQUARIUS Yes, the details are important, but worrying over them will only make you anxious and tense. Trust in the process and do whatever it is you do to relax.

PISCES The old adage is "neither a borrower nor a lender be." But you're too empathetic to withhold help when it is needed. Don't despair — a generous heart is a valuable gift. ●

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For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-5264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2010 by Ralfee Finn

FOOD & DRINK

The Alameda is elegantly over-the-top.

Stephen Loewinsohn

GREEN, EGGS, AND HAM

The Sunny Side Café takes ecology seriously

By Anneli Rufus

When a scientist cooks breakfast, he's calculating the temperature at which eggs coagulate (between 144 and 158 degrees Fahrenheit) and contemplating the carbon dioxide that whitens their whites. Slicing cheese, he admires its microbes.

When that scientist is an ecologist, he's also gauging the sustainability of heirloom garlic grown at Brentwood's **Brookside Farms**, heirloom squash grown at Sunol's **Baia Nicchia Farm**, peppers grown at Santa Rosa's **Quetzal Farms**, and hormone-free entirely grass-fed meat from Bolinas' **Niman Ranch**.

When that scientist is also a mycologist — a fungi expert — he pops chanterelles (which he knows as Cantharellus cibarius) into eggs Benedict when winter finds those fluted yellow potassium-packed cups massed under pine needles and fallen leaves on East Bay slopes.

Aaron French is all three. A farm-bred scientifically trained self-described "Eco-Chef" who has lectured about his blended careers at the **Oakland Museum of California** and the **San Francisco Fungus Fair**, French spent years studying fragile landscapes worldwide. Having taken up professional cooking while earning an ecology degree at UC San Diego, he used the concepts of multivariate analysis to create what he calls the "Pancake Pyramid," by which recipes can be processed and plotted according to texture, density, and other qualities.

He also helms the kitchens at Solano Avenue's seven-year-old **Sunny Side Café** and the new Sunny Side Café that opened across the street from UC Berkeley's West Gate last fall. Both locations are intensely eco-friendly. Thanks to the efforts of owner **Paul Revenaugh**, the Solano spot was Albany's first Certified Green restaurant. At both Sunny Sides, all food scraps are composted and all paper, cans, and bottles are recycled. Water is served only upon request. Low-energy fluorescent lighting provides all illumination. Organic ingredients are used whenever possible. Menus denote "low carbon emission options," based on French's calculations of the miles each ingredient traveled before reaching his countertop.

Both cafes serve only breakfast, brunch, and lunch. At local farmers markets and a wide range of nearby farms, French ponders how each local seasonal item he sees might be used in morning and midday fare. "Crazy items catch my eye," he said. "If it's a crazy fruit or herb, I'm thinking, 'How can I put this into pancake batter and what could I wrap in that pancake?'"

Persimmons find their way into fluffy flapjacks, along with dulce de leche for a smooth, almost smoky finish. Blood oranges brighten baguette-based French toast. Dried cranberries spike chicken salad. Whole fresh blackberries pock house-baked, perfectly not-too-sweet muffins. Cremini and porcini mushrooms — wild-foraged in Berkeley — flavor an earthy cream sauce swathing plump Italian-sausage pigs-in-blankets.

The Sunny Side's signature dish, French's own extravagant invention, is the Alameda: ham or other savory fillings sandwiched between two French toast slices, topped with two over-easy eggs, house-made Hollandaise sauce, and a balsamic reduction. Changing seasons spawn endless variations.

One day this winter, "I was thinking of how my daughter Pearl likes to go out and select the perfect leaf while at the park," French said. "I thought, 'Why don't I create a special based on the colors of the leaves she selects?'" This led to an Alameda stuffed with russet potatoes, golden yams, butternut squash, and rainbow chard — "all locally sourced, but also invoking the color of the fallen leaves around Berkeley."

Elegantly over-the-top, the Alameda was born "as kind of a joke. We don't have a deep-fryer here, because I don't want to serve fried food," French explained. Yet he yearned to riff on classic batter-dipped, powdered-sugar-topped, Monte Cristo ham-and-cheese sandwiches.

"I wondered, 'How can I make this fun thing without a fryer?' By using French toast. And hey, I'll put some eggs on top — and some sauce, because that's how we do things here. After a while, people were always coming in and asking for that big sandwich."

It's arguably too big for one diner to polish off in one go. That's true, too, for the generous eggs Benedict, drenched in Hollandaise and served with enough crispy-outside rosemary-flecked home fries to fill a bowling shoe. The Tilden Benedict features assertive mushrooms and melt-in-your-mouth tomatoes — but it's just one of many Benedicts, including an unagi Benedict featuring fresh eel that also infuses the Hollandaise. French has even invented a carbonated Hollandaise by putting the requisite lemon juice, egg yolks, and butter through the same process that seltzerizes water.

From the sunny yellow sauce to the sunny yellow eggs and fresh butter to the sunny yellow walls and golden hardwood floor, the cozy new Berkeley restaurant basks in a French farmhouse ambience. Order at the counter, then wander upstairs or outdoors, where dishes and drinks (such as indulgent cream-topped hot chocolate) are delivered briskly by attentive servers. It's fun in the way that filling daytime food can be, but it's also dead serious. "We're the only restaurant I know of that calculates and prints the food miles for all its produce," French averred. "It forces me to put my money where my mouth is. In summer the average is about fifty miles; in midwinter it's over twice that" — "which is still pretty respectable, all things considered. I hope my customers see those numbers and that it sparks them to have conversations."

The restaurant's many meatless items include veggie burgers, curried-tofu sandwiches, and breakfast burritos, but French goes one step farther by maintaining separate grills "so that our meat never touches our pancake and potato grills. I train all my staff to use separate spatulas and utensils as well. ... At most brunch restaurants, vegetarians end up eating potatoes cooked in bacon and burger grease." But not here.

Consider your consciousness raised. ●

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

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Havana 2630 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-6131. (Cuban) $$

[illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1011. (Japan/Small Plates) $

La [illegible] 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-9[illegible]. (Mexican) $$

The New Zealander 1633 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-769-8555. (Brewpub/English/Irish/New Zealander/Organic/Sustainable) $

Ole's Waffle Shop 1507 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-9848. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100. (California Cuisine) $$

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Bua Luang 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8288. (Southeast Asian/Thai/[illegible]) $

[illegible] Bakery & Cafe 841 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-3734. (Bakery/American) $$

Cafe Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-5561. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

China Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2285. (Chinese) $-$$

Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-3365. (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-3411. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501-A Solano Ave., Albany, 510-559-9006. (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Hamro Aangan 856 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-2220. (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Organic Kitchen 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-1850. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-8814. (English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

[illegible] 1956 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2589. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Kirin 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1677. (Chinese) $$

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838. (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Lanesplitter Pizza to Go 1051 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-8375. (Pizza)

Lao-Thai Kitchen 1418 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-559-3276. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Seafood/Soul Food/Thai/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 1581 Oak View Ave., Kensington, 510-525-1160. (British/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$

[illegible] 1045 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2275. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Sam's Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 1131 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6063. (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 911 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-1000. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $-$$

ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

[illegible] House 5418 Lone Tree Way #E, Brentwood, 925-308-7807. (Barbecue/Deli) $

BERKELEY DOWNTOWN

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900. (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Arinell 2109 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035. (Pizza) $

Au Coquelet Cafe 2000 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-0433. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Coffeehouses/Breakfast/Brunch/Eclectic/Exotic) $

Bangkok Thai Cuisine 1400 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-6459. (Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-847-1700. (American/English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

Cafe [illegible] 2179 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3200. (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Eclectic/Pizza) $$

Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155. (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Brazil Fresh Squeeze Cafe 2161 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9131. (Brazilian/South American) $

Cafe [illegible] 2020 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5853. (Tibetan) $-$$

Caffe Venezia 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-4681. (Italian) $$-$$$

La [illegible] 2184 Center St., Berkeley, 510-704-8508. (Mexican) $

Chick-O-Pea's 1920 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8800. (Middle Eastern) $

Cinnaholic 2132 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-649-8234. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Dessert/Ice Cream/Bakery/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-0200. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 2333 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8544. (Deli) $

[illegible] 1960 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-3718. (American)

[illegible] 2808 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-295-8855. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Giovanni Restaurant 2420 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6678. (Italian) $$

[illegible] 1996 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1858. (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Henry's Publick House & Grille 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-809-4132. (California Cuisine) $$

Herbivore 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1675. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490. (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 2020 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-6028. (American/Barbecue) $$

Jayakarta 2026 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0888. (Southeast Asian) $-$$

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. (Brewpub/Pizza/Bars & Clubs) $$

Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072. (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

La Note 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535. (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $$-$$$

Oscar's 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2164. (American/Diner) $

Pie in the Sky 2111 Center St., Berkeley, 510-841-6[illegible]. (Pizza) $

[illegible] 81 Shattuck Sq., Berkeley, 510-540-1700. (Italian/Bakery) $

[illegible] 1835 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2148. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] 2085 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-0861. (Japanese/Sushi) $

Raw Energy 2050 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-665-9464. (Vegetarian/Vegan/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $

Revival Bar & Kitchen 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9950. (American/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Bars & Clubs) $$$

San Francisco [illegible] Company 2352 Shattuck Way, Berkeley, 510-848-7007. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Waffle Cafe 2564 Shattuck Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0010. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Taste of the Himalayas 1700 Shattuck Ave., Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4983. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Thai Delight Cuisine 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0611. (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Top Dog 2160 Center St., Berkeley, 510-843-1[illegible]. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Turkish Kitchen 1986 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9991. (Middle Eastern) $$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600. (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Venus 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5950. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/American/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Zabu Zabu 2233 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-9228. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981. (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

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BERKELEY NORTH

Cesar 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1213. (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004. (Italian) $$

[illegible] Cafe 1645 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-[illegible]. (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani/Tibetan) $-$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley, 510-528-4692. (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

[illegible] Cafe 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2233. (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8868. (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-7900. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Express 1803 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5331. (Vegetarian/Vegan/Wine Bars) $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354.

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Trader Vic's

9 Anchor Dr., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]. After an extensive five-month renovation, the granddaddy of all tiki bars has adopted a more casual 21st century attitude, with a larger lounge area, more [illegible] and [illegible] imagery and a lighter, tapas menu. Some of the food is still deep-fried and heavily sauced, but classics like the ham and Gruyere Cheese Bings and the oyster-spinach Bongo Bongo Soup continue to delight. Best of all, though, are the dazzling tropical rum drinks served in a variety of bowls and flagons, especially the sweet, potent 1944 Mai Tai (a house original). $$$

Giovanni Restaurant

2420 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. Serving classic Italian fare in the same comfortable earth-toned, softly glowing space since 1961, Giovanni is one of the last still-standing Berkeley restaurants enlivening the childhood memories of local folks aged fifty-plus. The [illegible] is still made in the exact same way by the exact same hands: sous chef Juan Sanchez has been doing it for forty years. Original owner Giovanni Schepisi sold the place in 1987, then bought it back in 2001; now it's a family outfit again. Pasta, pizza, sandwiches, and other favorites — the Italian standbys that are programmed into the sensory hard drive of most anyone who grew up in Europe or North America — are served in generous portions, with fabulous soft-centered, steaming hot, herb-speckled, house-made focaccia on the side. If you know what's good for you, order the tiramisu. $$

Scolari's Good Eats

1303 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-2420. This downtown Alameda takeout joint boasts the same affordable-foodie cred as the gourmet street carts and grocery-store deli counters that have blossomed since the economy [illegible]. The cuisine is classic American fast food — burgers, hot dogs, breakfast sandwiches — but the ingredients are seasonal and organic, the execution is imaginative and satisfying, and the daily specials include such delights as Dungeness crab with garlic butter, split pea soup with crispy pork belly, and a New Jersey stromboli studded up with pumpkin, kale, and cashews. The cheerful, closet-size space has six stools and a few sidewalk tables, or enjoy your takeout at the Lucky 13 saloon next door. $$

No Worries

[illegible] Franklin St., Oakland, 510-444-4466. One hundred percent vegan Filipino food, such as that served at No Worries, is highly anomalous, a *Star Trek* version of a cuisine that in its natural habitat is about 95 percent meat. Thus No Worries' soy-pork menudo and soy-beef bistek might disconcert those who have been fully immersed in the real Pinoy McCoy. Born in the Philippines but raised in Oakland, chef/owner Jay-Ar Dagami Pagao creates meatless versions of dishes he used to make: *afritada*, *ginataang*, *sinigang*, *kare-kare*, and more. Served in a hip but off-puttingly cavernous setting, these entrées are hearty, filling, remarkably un-greasy, and most are rich in fake meat manufactured by world-class flesh-prefabricator Layonna. $

Plum

2214 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7586. Star chef Daniel Patterson's more casual, scaled-down neighborhood version of San Francisco's Coi serves up farm-fresh ingredients in unusual California fusion combinations: deviled eggs with caperberry-tarragon relish, oyster stew with parsley root and wheatgrass, braised cauliflower with dandelion salsa verde. The execution doesn't always live up to the high concept, but the beef cheek/oxtail burger is sensational, the artichoke/chervil [illegible] is lush and delectable, and the white chocolate parfait with huckleberries is a dream. Strikingly dark, sleek setting, impressive wine list. $$$

Zaki Kabob House

[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible]. The Ayyad family operated falafel carts around the Bay Area for thirty years before opening Zaki Kabob House two years ago in a location that many locals considered "cursed." The Ayyads transformed it into a homey, cozy, picture-bedecked setting where they serve Levantine classics such as shawerma, tabouleh, kibbeh, and, of course, kabobs. The house specialty is rotisserie chicken, whose spice rub and marinade are closely held secrets of owner Ramzy Ayyad's Palestinian mother. Vegans can choose from a wide range of selections; standouts include fava-bean salad, falafel burgers, baba ghanoush, and Lebanese lentil-rice *mujadara*. $

(Italy/Kosher/Halal/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Top Dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 1470 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0159 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegan/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 1806 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-645-5300 (American) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Flavors of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-848-2086 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Café Valparaiso [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (South American) $$
[illegible] 2556 Telegraph Ave., 2nd floor, Berkeley, 510-981-8476 (Caribbean) $$
La Gourmet 2975 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-[illegible] (Mexican) $
[illegible] 2048 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Locanda da Eva 2826 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/[illegible]/Mexican/Middle Eastern/Pizza/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
[illegible] 2011 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Norikonoko 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$
Paragon Bar & Café 51 [illegible] Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
[illegible] 2914 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] $-$$
[illegible] 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (American) $
Summer Kitchen Bake Shop 2944 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-0530 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Bakery) $$
[illegible] 3358 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-985-7301 (Bakery/Cafe/American) $-$$
[illegible] 3035 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-[illegible] (African/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-[illegible] (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
The [illegible] Workshop 1209 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/California Cuisine/Deli/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 700 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible] (American) $
[illegible] [illegible] Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4729 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Café Aquarius [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/American/Coffeehouse)
Café Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Eatery/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Café Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable/Coffeehouse) $$-$$$
Casa Latina 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-[illegible] (Bakery/Mexican) $
[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] 1401 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
[illegible] 2951 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-4080 (Caribbean) $
[illegible] 1580 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Ikea 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible] (Scandinavian/Furniture & Home Furnishings) $
[illegible] and Sweets 814 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1200 (Bakery/Ice Cream/Dessert) $
Indus Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Vegan/Halal) $
Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Mexican) $-$$
[illegible] 1130 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Halal) $
KC's Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible] (Barbecue) $-$$
Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-[illegible] (Pizza/Art Galleries) $
[illegible] [illegible] 40th St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Pizza/Italian) $$$
Picante 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-[illegible] (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-[illegible] (Indian/Organic/[illegible]) $$-$$$
Rudy's Can't Fail Café 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221 (American/Diner) $-$$
[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$
Sea Breeze Market and Deli 598 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-[illegible] (Deli/Seafood) $
Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$
Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$
Tacubaya 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-5160 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tacos/Small Plates) $-$$
Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Trader Vic's 9 Anchor Dr., Emeryville, 510-653-3400 (Asian Fusion/American/Caribbean/Hawaiian/Seafood) $$$-$$$$

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

[illegible] [illegible] Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Central American/Salvadoran) $
[illegible] 2009 Monument Blvd., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Afghan/Persian) $
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible] (Asian) $$
Fabio's Gyros and Hot Dogs 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible] (Greek/Turkish) $
Kinder's Custom Meats 2221 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
Kinder's Custom Meats [illegible] Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
La Piñata 2301 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Dr., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $
[illegible] [illegible] Oak Grove, Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

The Dead Fish [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-[illegible] (American/Seafood) $$$-$$$$
[illegible] City Cafe 110 Park Pl., [illegible], 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine) $$
[illegible] Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-[illegible] (American) $$$
Kinder's Custom Meats 3600 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-724-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
Krung Thep [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
[illegible] Restaurant Delights 1572 Sycamore Ave., Suite 5, Hercules, 510-[illegible] (Filipino) $
[illegible] Thai [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $-$$
[illegible] 250 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-[illegible] (Mexican/[illegible]) $-$$
[illegible] delivery only, El Cerrito, 510-[illegible] (Italian/Pizza) $$
[illegible] [illegible] Pinole, 510-[illegible] (Italian) $$
[illegible] Thai [illegible] Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
Tacos Los Primos Parking lot of 550 23rd St., Richmond (Mexican) $
El Tapatio 510 23rd St., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $
Taqueria La Bamba 1734 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $
Up & Under [illegible] Ave., Point Richmond, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Barbecue/Brewpub/English/Irish/California Cuisine) $$
[illegible] Seafood Restaurant [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Afghan/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$
Kinder's Fremont Meats [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $
[illegible] [illegible] Rd., Union City, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $
[illegible] [illegible] Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-651-1412 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $
[illegible] Grill 39158 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
Massimo's 5200 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Italian) $$$
[illegible] 40900 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $
[illegible] [illegible] Rd., Union City, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $
Salang Pass [illegible] Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-[illegible] (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$
[illegible] [illegible] New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

[illegible] 1213 A St., [illegible], 510-582-[illegible] (French) $$$
[illegible] [illegible] B St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American/Brewpub) $
[illegible] [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $
The Hayward [illegible] 22877 Mission Blvd., [illegible], 510-[illegible] (American/Sea-

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Of Mountains and Monopoly

Zinfandels aren't always as big as they seem

We headed off to Tahoe for skiing this week amid code-red storm warnings and high winds. In the end, the drive was an easy three hours and we swept into Tahoe Donner none the worse for wear. Amid the bluffs and bluster, it was time to sample the good hearty wine that is Zinfandel.

This wine was a fitting choice because you can't drink too much in the mountains (altitude and dehydration) and have to make every glass count. Anyone who has been tempted by that one-glass-too-many in the mountains knows they'll spend the rest of the night with eyes wide-open like a possum.

Our friends Anne, Cindy, and Cynthia drove over to our rented cabin to share a pot-luck meal of rosemary chicken, rib-eye steak, pineapple, and tortellini, a pretty unusual combination, but one that a good Zin should be able to handle. We'd picked up three bottles at the Safeway in Truckee, but all of them can also be found readily in the East Bay.

First up was **Bogle Old Vine Zinfandel California 2008** ($9.99). The vineyard's old head trained vines produce a smaller crop of fruit that can be unusually rich and concentrated. However, there doesn't seem to be any determination on how old "old vines" really are. Regardless, it was a bottle everyone recognized. Cindy said it's her regular Halloween wine: "We choose it because it's reliable, fruity, cheap, and very good," she said. "To me it always tastes of Halloween, of Snickers bars."

Anne liked its claret color. "I do buy this stuff. It's an easy Tuesday night wine. Great also to put into your beef bourguignon if you don't want to use a $40 bottle." She also uses it in Charlie Trotter short ribs with onion, leeks, and garlic. "You need to put in the whole bottle and this dish rocks!" I thought the wine tasted a little of vanilla, with a hint of cherry.

Next was the **Zinsational Old Vine Sonoma County 2008** ($9.99). With a name like that, you know it's a wine that doesn't take itself too seriously. Cindy found it to be lighter with little aroma and less fruitiness than the Bogle. Anne agreed that it was not as robust, even thinner. I found it had a very thin after-taste. We all agreed it needed to be eaten with a spicy or very tasty meat dish with plenty of garlic.

Finally came the **Ravenswood Vintners Blend California 2008** ($7.49). We had all seen this one at parties. Anne pointed out that the vineyard's slogan had been "No Wimpy Wines," which I liked. However, compared to the Bogle, it was a little wimpy and thin, with no discernible aroma, definitely one to drink with Indian food.

So the last two wines need strong, tasting dishes to offset their wanness. But the Bogle is one you would look forward to after a hard day "shredding" the mountain — or perhaps a rigorous day playing Monopoly in the cabin.

—*Jody Brettkelly*

jbrettkelly@gmail.com

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R&C

Best Steak House) $-$$

Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 20916 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley. 510-889-9888. (Chinese) $

JD's Restaurant and Pub 2832 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley. 510-886-6602 (Diner) $

La Imena 2699 Davis St., San Leandro. 510-357-8001. (Mexican) $$

La Imena 904 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Mexican) $$

Bonds Grande 20580-D Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. 510-670-0721 (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

The Jamaican Taste 925 B St., Hayward. 510-538-9114 (American/Diner) $

Restaurant 142 S St., Hayward. 510-583-9344 (California Cuisine/Bistro) $$$

Pot Pie Paradise 1527 Arden Rd., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-4934 (American) $

Sam's Super Burger 16401 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo. 510-278-0335. (American/Diner) $

The Sister's Grand 25068 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-538-0500. (Korean) $$

Sugar Fingers Jamaican Restaurant 484 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-303-8600 (Caribbean) $$

Tokyo Sushi 1427 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-352-3840. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-1130. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Dolce Brands 20 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-2593. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Sweet Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. 925-962-2489. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Hillside Partners Cafe 3503 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-0800. (Mexican) $-$$

Kitchen 3585 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-299-8281 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Moraga Garden Cafe 1012 School St., Moraga. 925-[illegible] (American) $-$$

Ristorante Amoroso 360 Park St., Moraga. 925-[illegible] (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Taqueria El Grande 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-284-8700 (Mexican) $

Yan 3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette. 925-284-1330. (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

B 499 9th St., Oakland. 510-251-8770. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Battambang 850 Broadway, Oakland. 510-839-8815. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Breads of India 948 Clay St., Oakland. 510-834-7684. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Brown Sugar Kitchen 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland. 510-839-7685. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965. (Coffeehouses/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Dona Tomas 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of KPI Building, Oakland. 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$

Coco Asian Grill 977 Harrison St., Oakland, 510-444-8000. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Max Edwards Bar-B-Que 1445 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-834-0111. (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Hon Lau 301 8th St., Oakland. 510-835-3288. (Chinese/Seafood) $

Grey Inn 241 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-834-7401. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Breakfast/Brunch/American) $-$$

Cock-A-Doodle Cafe 719 Washington St., Oakland. 510-465-5400. (American/Burgers/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino) $-$$

B&A Cafe 634 Eighth St., Oakland. 510-839-6223. (Chinese) $

Farmers Market Bagels 3315 Clay St., Oakland. 510-238-8100. (Burgers/Sandwiches/California Cuisine/Italian/Japanese Sushi/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$

Sugar of Oakland & Waffles 444 Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-838-4448. (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

Kona 1035 Clay St., Oakland. 510-208-6180. (Caribbean/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Lux Taro 2432 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-832-[illegible] (African) $$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. (Belgian/California Cuisine/French/Bars & Clubs) $$-$$$

Miss Pearl's Jam House One Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-1111 (Caribbean) $$$

Max 2447 Webster St., Oakland. 510-238-1130. (American/Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates/Bars & Clubs/Wine & Clubs) $$-$$$

Ay Yay Kitchen 1447 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-444-4468. (Filipino) $

Ozumo Oakland 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland. (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Pacific 2295 Broadway, Oakland. 510-834-1900. (Southern/Soul Food/American/Chinese/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine) $-$$

Plum 2214 Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-7586. (American/Tapas/Small Plates/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino/Bars & Clubs) $$

Restaurant Picasso 308 14th St., Oakland. 510-285-8886. (Chinese) $-$$

San Francisco Soup Company 1300 Clay St., Oakland. 510-763-3967. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Vegetarian) $

Min Hong 326 10th St., #101, Oakland. 510-836-2299. (Chinese) $-$$

Shashamane 2501 Broadway, Oakland. 510-888-6316. (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Sun Hop Meat Market 350 9th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible] $-$ (Chinese) $

Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 468 8th St., Oakland. 510-444-1944 (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Toy Bo 3448 12th St., Oakland. 510-836-0288. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Top Dog 599 46th St., Suite 17, Oakland. 510-625-8060. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Sugar Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 10th St., Oakland. 510-893-9996. (Barbecue) $-$$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200. (Japanese/Sushi/Bars & Clubs/Performance Venues) $$$

Quay Kee Restaurant 868 Webster St., Oakland. 510-836-2010. (Chinese) $

OAKLAND-EAST

Da La 1805 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-261-9800. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Las Tortas 4440 Foothill Ave., Oakland. 510-536-3075 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Huong Que Cafe 1238 7th Ave., Oakland. 510-835-8498 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Mariscos La Costa 3625 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6506. (Mexican) $

Mm Pagoda 831 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-465-0606. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Huong Cheo de Nhan 3340 #2 E. 12th St., Oakland. 510-533-8188. (Desserts/Ice Cream) $

El Ojo de Agua 3930 E. 12th St., Oakland. (Mexican) $

Old Bahay Ping Village 8800 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-8771. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Sugar Restaurant 3812 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-558-3600. (Oakland) $-$$

Huong Pho Hoa 3912 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-8889. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Pho An Sao 200 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-836-8825. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pho Sao Vang 2211 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-434-9988. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pho Bac Lieu 135 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-451-6888. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pupuseria Lupita 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-436-3610. (Central American) $

Tanjia 234 S Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-922-6531. (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

Taqueria Durango 3670 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-536-8460. (Seafood/Mexican) $

Taqueria San José 3433 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-5748. (Mexican) $

La Torta Loca 3415 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-536-7105. (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-6004 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-1088. (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Boot and Shoe Service 3308 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-763-2668. (Pizza/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable)

Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-547-5035. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Sugar Ladies 4093 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-985-1700. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Dona Tomas 5175 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-1034. (French) $-$$

Sugar Kane 532 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-834-1868. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Ume 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-652-2676. (Italian/Organic/Vegetarian) $-$$

Oakland Fish 3314 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-645-1847. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Sugar Bowl 3601 Grand Ave., Oakland. (American/Afghan/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Brothers Restaurant Incorporated 2180 Antioch Ct., Oakland. 510-339-2725. (American) $

Lanesplitter Pizza to Go 533 Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-893-0001. (Pizza) $

Mission Ethiopian Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-428-1622. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

Specks 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-836-1100. (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

Tropic 3884 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-653-2444. (Caribbean) $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-2946. (American/Breakfast/Wine Bars/California Cuisine/Bars & Clubs) $$

Zatis 4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-658-3056. (California Cuisine/Italian/Greek/Turkish) $$$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

Sugar Panna 5315 College Ave., Oakland. 510-658-3200. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Oliveto 5301 College Ave., Oakland. 510-985-8388. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

Marzano on College 5356 College Ave., Oakland. 510-555-4858. (Italian) $$$

Kirala 2100 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-652-6959. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Nan Yang 6048 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3298. (Southeast Asian) $$

Bistro Theory 5089 Carlisle Ave., Oakland. 510-505-0880. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

Oliveto Cafe 5655 College Ave., Oakland. 510-548-5356. (Italian/Californian) $$$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-0889. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland. 510-428-1823. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

Top Dog 5100 Broadway, Oakland. 510-601-4177. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-7753. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Oliveto Bistro 6241 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-8687. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4640 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-9227. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bistro Superior 5731 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-2976. (Southeast Asian) $$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-7999. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Longbrush Sugar 4311 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-0001. (Korean) $

Doña Tomás 5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-450-0522. (Mexican) $$$

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[illegible] Oakland, [illegible] [illegible] and taste their wines, along with a seasonal dinner. [illegible] 7:30 p.m. $70. [illegible] Oakland, Wine Club Studio, 2017 Seventh St. [illegible]

Flight Night Featuring [illegible] from [illegible] Winery, a family-owned business [illegible] for producing small quantities of high-quality wines. Call 925-456-2450 to make reservations. Last [illegible] of every month, 5-7 p.m., $12-$25. [illegible] Vineyards Restaurant, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450, [illegible]Vineyards.com

New Year's Eve Dinner at [illegible] Oakland. [illegible] for dinner, [illegible] and music by [illegible] Fri., Dec. 31, 5-10 p.m. $65. [illegible] 2221 Broadway Ave., Oakland.

New Year's Eve [illegible] [illegible] family-style dinner, [illegible] specials, a [illegible] Year's toast, and music. Fri., Dec. 31, [illegible] p.m., $25. [illegible] 247 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-834-2467. [illegible]

New Year's Eve Dinner at [illegible] Serving a four-course prix-fixe menu with vegetarian and vegetarian [illegible]. Fri., Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m. $65. [illegible] 2200 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

New Year's Eve Dinner at [illegible] With a five-course prix-fixe dinner including a glass of sparkling wine and live music. Fri., Dec. 31, 5 p.m. $55. [illegible] 2220 Mountain Blvd. Oakland, 510-482-8094.

New Year's Eve Dinner at [illegible] Featuring a four-course prix-fixe menu (plus amuse-bouche and glass of wine), a free champagne toast at midnight, live music, and dancing. With an early ($75) and late ($99) seating, plus an optional wine pairing ($30). Fri., Dec. 31, 6-10 p.m., $75-$129. [illegible] 1820 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-644-0444. [illegible]

New Year's Eve "Murder of the [illegible] Mystery [illegible] Interactive show and game, with a three-course dinner and sparkling wine. Reservations required. Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $75. [illegible] 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. TheLake[illegible].com

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farmers' Market [illegible] family grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info visit PCFMA.com. [illegible]

Market [illegible] 5[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Building A, Oakland. 510-652-3801. (Deli/[illegible]) $

[illegible] 4330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

La [illegible] 5200 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-8220. (Mexican) $

[illegible] Pizza and Pub 5790 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-653-5350. (Pizza/Art Gallery) $

Pizza 49 4[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-3190. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$

The [illegible] 4[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-655-5880. (California Cuisine/[illegible]) $$

Market Café [illegible] Oakland Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. (Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch/Performance Venue) $

[illegible] 5701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-658-9040. (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-2468. (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 5470 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-655-8300. (American/California Cuisine/Southern/Soul Food) $$$

[illegible] 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-653-2288. (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI-VALLEY

[illegible] [illegible] Church St., [illegible]. 925-820-7200. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, [illegible]. 925-552-8500. (Steak House) $$$$

days, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] St. [illegible] Ave. & [illegible] St., Oakland.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Fresh [illegible] supplied by local organic and [illegible] farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible] Center, 15665 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-8000. [illegible]

[illegible] Market With organic [illegible] products, a food court, and performances by local bands. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. Berkeley Adult School, 1[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Farm Fresh Market Community Payment Stand [illegible] in culturally diverse, [illegible] neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-548-3[illegible]. EcologyCenter.org. [illegible] Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakepark, Oakland. 510-238-7275. [illegible]

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the [illegible]. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser [illegible], 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser [illegible], 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente [illegible] City Farmers' Market With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables, and flowers. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a complete [illegible] fresh flowers, an organic [illegible] from Oakland, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, [illegible], [illegible] and seasonal [illegible]. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Market Farmers' Market With certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm and it's [illegible] called the Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Laurel [illegible], 4173 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North [illegible] Farmers' Market Serving specialty foods, [illegible] Oakland, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack [illegible] Market Square Farmers' Market Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, [illegible], flowers, specialty foods, yoga [illegible], live music, and arts and crafts for kids. [illegible] 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Certified Farmers Market [illegible] seasonal produce, eggs, crafts, and [illegible]. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Farmer's Market Fresh, locally grown fruit, flowers, eggs, and other [illegible]. Fridays, [illegible]-5 p.m., free. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, prepared foods, and more for sale, plus special events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150. CI.Berkeley.CA.US/[illegible] page?[illegible]

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, [illegible] goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley. ●

[illegible] Grill 1[illegible] A [illegible] Pl., San Ramon. 925-830-1344. (Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 4335 Hopyard Rd., Suite 7[illegible], Pleasanton. 925-461-2583. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] [illegible] Town & Country Dr., Suite D, [illegible]. 925-552-8[illegible]. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lawrence's Market [illegible] [illegible] Alamo. 925-838-6605. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Steak & Chop House 3[illegible] San Ramon Rd., Dublin. 925-833-9995. (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] San Ramon. 925-837-9387. (California Cuisine) $$$

The [illegible] 9[illegible] Moraga Rd., Lafayette. 925-[illegible]. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville. 925-820-6611. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] Grill 4[illegible] Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-734-8307. (American/Seafood) $

[illegible] 3151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon. 925-277-9[illegible]. (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] 21[illegible] San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-829-5[illegible]. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

Taqueria [illegible] 4[illegible] San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. 925-820-6[illegible]. (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 4[illegible] Pleasanton. 925-734-8[illegible]. (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 5[illegible] Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-737-1[illegible]. (Mexican) $

[illegible] at the Vineyard [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 925-449-2000. (Mexican) $$-$$$

[illegible] Chicago Pizza 3[illegible] Crow Canyon Pl., Suite [illegible], San Ramon. 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

PICK

New Years Eve Dinner

[illegible] traditional good luck symbols, husband and wife chefs **Christopher and Victoria Laramie** devised a five-course **New Year's Eve dinner** that they will serve at **eVe** (1960 University Ave., Berkeley) on Friday Dec. 31. Its components include longevity-promoting black-eyed peas, prosperity-promoting persimmons and pumpernickel, and allegedly lucky black truffles and bananas — along with oysters, scallops, parsnips, and quail. 5:30-10 p.m., $70. Eve-Berkeley.com

— Anneli Rufus

WALNUT CREEK

[illegible] 1475 [illegible] Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-210-0779. (Eastern European) $$

[illegible] 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]-2464. (American/Steak House/Bars & Clubs) $$$

Market of India 1350 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-7[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 1[illegible] [illegible] Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-937-5[illegible]. (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 1500 [illegible] St., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4555. (California Cuisine/Cuban/Nuevo Latino) $$

[illegible] Market [illegible] Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-952-9[illegible]. (Barbecue/Deli) $

The Original Hickory Pit 1[illegible] North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-1[illegible]. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

[illegible] 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] 2[illegible] Ygnacio Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

[illegible] 8[illegible] North [illegible], Walnut Creek. 925-943-[illegible]. (Steak House) $$$-$$$$ ●

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BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL

Local Food View:
New Year's Eating

We don't put much stock in resolutions, but a fresh start is an undeniably good thing. 2010 was a banner year for sustainable food, but there is still so much work to be done.

What will you do and eat in the new year? January is a great time to try new vegetables, take up pickling, learn how to make yogurt, start a garden project or simply make up your mind to cook more (and stick with it).

Happy New Year from CAFF!
We wish you a 2011 full of good, local eating.

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THE BARGAIN RACK

Aussie action (*Red Hill*), Tinseltown malaise (*Somewhere*), and downsized executives (*The Company Men*) for sale

By Kelly Vance

Tommy Lewis stars as Jimmy Conway in *Red Hill*.

Going to movies released in the first few weeks after the winter holidays is pretty much like shopping for sweaters or electronics during the same time period — the merchandise has been picked over. But if you're smart you can discover one or two bargains that everyone else has overlooked (if only theaters would slash their prices, as well).

Take ***Red Hill***, for instance. **Patrick Hughes'** Australian neo-Western has the look and feel of a sturdy, no-nonsense, no-movie-stars actioner — but it's better than it appears at first glance. Hughes' screenplay, set in the picturesque rolling hills of Victoria state, lets us ride along on the frantic, eventful first day at work of the title small town's new police officer, Shane Cooper (**Ryan Kwanten**). In common with most reassigned cops in movies, Shane has things in his past he'd rather forget, but with a pregnant wife (**Claire van der Boom** from ***The Square***) to worry about, he's trying to walk the line. That's hard to do when the town's dictatorial police chief, Old Bill (**Steve Bisley**), and his jerkwater deputies are so intent on picking on Shane, assigning him the most humiliating and dangerous tasks just to watch him cringe.

Shane's hazing period wouldn't matter much if it weren't for the fact that one of Red Hill's most notorious residents, an Aboriginal bloke named Jimmy Conway (played by **Tommy Lewis**, star of ***The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith***), has just crashed out of prison and is reportedly heading home to settle scores with the townsfolk. Jimmy has a hideous face, half burn-scar tissue — the result of a bad night a few years ago that Jimmy now wishes to discuss with Old Bill. Jimmy also has a reputation as "the best brumby tracker in the territory," meaning he'll find you no matter where you try to hide. He's the Aboriginal Danny Trejo. Old Bill and the deputies stock up on guns and ammo and send poor Shane out to patrol a lonely mountain roadblock alone. As it happens, a fierce rainstorm is about to hit at the same time as Jimmy Conway. Prepare for a maelstrom of bullets.

After the ominous buildup, writer-director Hughes plays the resulting battle fairly straight. Jimmy starts out as an Anton Chigurh-style unstoppable bogeyman, but that melts away as we learn what he's all about. Old Bill, of course, is the true monster, the ruler of the town and chief lawbreaker, and ***Mad Max*** veteran Bisley makes us loathe him the moment we meet him. Yes, this is the land of *Mad Max*, so the stunts and explosions are of the highest order. So is **Tim Hudson's** scenic cinematography. The bit about the killer leopard that's been tearing apart livestock, though, should have been left out. It doesn't help that the cat is obviously CGI.

Red Hill

Written and directed by Patrick Hughes. With Ryan Kwanten and Tommy Lewis. Opens Friday.

Somewhere

Written and directed by Sofia Coppola. With Stephen Dorff and Elle Fanning. Now playing.

The Company Men

Written and directed by John Wells. With Ben Affleck and Tommy Lee Jones. Now playing.

Sofia Coppola's character study ***Somewhere***, the portrait of a diffident, bored Hollywood movie star named Johnny Marco (played by **Stephen Dorff**) in stripped-down and tense, reeking of contempt. The question is, Contempt for whom? We fear the contempt may be for its audience. Johnny resides at H'wood's ill-fated Chateau Marmont, where his favorite occupations seem to be staring past various objects, including a pair of twin blond pole dancers who perform in his room, and aimlessly driving his Ferrari nowhere in particular. He has the same faraway facial expression as the Bill Murray character in *Lost in Translation*, as if being rich and famous and having casual sex with practically any woman his eye falls upon bring him no joy whatsoever.

Johnny's routine is broken up by the appearance of his daughter Cleo (**Elle Fanning**), who comes to stay with him at the hotel and accompanies him on a business trip to Italy to promote his new film. If we were waiting for Cleo to open up a new room in the dusty, empty mansion that is Johnny's consciousness, we wait in vain. They have a slight bit of father-daughter fun, then she leaves. And then he leaves.

Writer-director Coppola's strategy is evidently to convey Johnny's loneliness in as few brush strokes as possible and to let formalism take the place of emotion. Long, repetitive sequences, very little dialog, but also a trace of humor: the anonymous cell phone insults running gag, the homosexual plate with the masseur, and the revelation that Johnny stands on an out-of-shot platform in photo shoots, to give him some height. While Coppola laughs up her sleeve, we grow just as bored as Johnny. Time for her to get out of her comfort zone, maybe adapt a novel. Anywhere else would be better than *Somewhere*.

The Company Men may well be the last of Hollywood's Recession Specials, but let's not get our hopes up unreasonably. This economic downturn might have legs, and as long as it lasts, producers will keep coming up with dramas like this.

Writer-director **John Wells**, the TV franchise-fabricator responsible for ***Shameless***, ***Southland***, ***ER***, and ***West Wing***, has something urgent to tell us about the sudden rise in unemployment in America's management class — particularly as it applies to **Ben Affleck**, **Tommy Lee Jones**, **Chris Cooper**, and **Craig T. Nelson**, a quartet of guys in Dockers wrestling with decreased demand in the heavy industrials. Top-exec jitters alternate with moral qualms and newfound humbleness.

Three of the four get laid off and learn valuable life lessons (or post-life, as it were) about what really matters behind the suburban McMansions and golf club perquisites. The notion of doing something with your hands, actually building something instead of pushing paper and closing business deals, is given serious, **Kevin-Costner**-ish consideration. Maggie (**Rosemarie DeWitt**), wife of overextended junior exec Bobby (Affleck), is seen to exert a calming influence as in a **James L. Brooks** scenario of old. If we were to tell you that these Viagra-prone middle-age-crazy dudes were cruising for a happy ending, you'd laugh. So we won't tell you that. Keep a close eye on your boss and approach this movie with caution. ●

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Boxing Gym Master documentary maker Frederick Wiseman observes the daily goings on at Austin, Texas boxing gym [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] (91 min.) [illegible]

ONGOING

127 Hours An [illegible]

[illegible]

Black Swan Natalie Portman's performance as a [illegible]

Burlesque Christina Aguilera [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany; **AFC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = Brenden Concord; **BH** = Cinemark Blackhawk; **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = AMC Bay Street; **CA** = Landmark California; **CAPH** = Cinemark Pleasant Hill; [illegible] **V** = Vine; **WWS** = West Wind Solano of 1933 to Shanghai even the [illegible] [illegible] Bread, as cinematographer [illegible] Faye and Jony Pist [illegible] from Bob Fosse. But the sounds [illegible] revival is a Bloomers to [illegible] Bread, and writer-director [illegible] finds something [illegible] in each character (even [illegible] Nelson. This is [illegible] with such ready lines as "I will not be upstaged by a slut with mutant lungs!") With Stanley Tucci and Alan Cumming. (118 min.) [illegible]

Carlos The [illegible], [illegible], biographical narrative [illegible] of Venezuelan international terrorist Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, and Carlos the Jackal, began as a French made-for-TV three-part [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] Olivier Assayas [illegible] his customary [illegible] on it, to the point of (you'll [illegible]) [illegible]. As the Venezuelan [illegible] revolutionary, who operated from the 1970s to the [illegible] in a dizzying array of [illegible] Europe and the Middle East, actor Édgar Ramírez (also from Venezuela) gets under the skin of a sincerely [illegible] man whose [illegible] career — assassinations, bombings, etc. — gradually takes on its own life. We keep up asking ourselves: What is a revolutionary after all? And what is a just cause worth dying for? No easy answers here, but plenty of [illegible] and enough [illegible] to supply any [illegible] of twists [illegible]. The huge [illegible] Alexander Scheer, Ahmad [illegible] Nora von Waldstätten, [illegible] and Talal [illegible] as "Ali," [illegible] as if [illegible]. As [illegible] were trying to cram a few more incidents into the five-and-a-half hours. The [illegible] screenplay is by Dan Franck and Assayas (330 min.) [illegible]

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader Adept at big-screen [illegible] ("The World is Not Enough") and [illegible] for his [illegible] documentaries about [illegible] [illegible] adults, veteran director [illegible] Apted was an unusual choice [illegible] and then [illegible] more of the [illegible] based on C.S. Lewis's [illegible] novels. The two youngest [illegible] (Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley) and their peevish cousin (Will Poulter, outstanding) are [illegible], and the [illegible] of [illegible] to recover seven [illegible] [illegible]. The beguiling [illegible] [illegible] to dragon, [illegible] [illegible] throughout the [illegible] of a storybook [illegible] while the [illegible] Lewis's Christian [illegible] of the previous entries. With Ben [illegible] and Tilda Swinton. (115 min.) [illegible]

Dinosaurs Alive! From the [illegible] to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic [illegible] [illegible]

Due Date Robert Downey Jr. [illegible] to fly home to LA before his wife delivers their first child. But after fellow passenger Zach Galifianakis gets him not only ejected from the plane but [illegible] on the no-fly list, the two embark on a cross-country drive. This odd-couple comedy [illegible] with Todd Phillips, who directed *The Hangover*, but don't [illegible] anything like the other movie's novel plotting or wild slapstick. Phillips has already directed a road comedy—the hilariously stupid *Road Trip* (2000)—and this is weak tea by comparison. If the story sounds [illegible], you might be remembering Steve Martin and John Candy as mismatched travelers in John Hughes's *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (1987). (100 min.) [illegible]

Fair Game The true story of [illegible] the Bush [illegible] [illegible] behind the scenes of CIA agent Valerie Plame (Naomi Watts) and her husband [illegible] Joseph (Sean Penn) for exposing the "weapons of mass destruction" subterfuge/justification for the Iraq invasion, from 2003. [illegible] of [illegible] Media's depressing [illegible] corporate-controlled America. They actually make an attractive couple. And director Doug Liman (the [illegible], *Swingers*), with help from Jez and John-Henry Butterworth's screenplay [illegible], takes us on an [illegible] ride, [illegible] behind the headlines. [illegible] (104 min.) [illegible]

The Fighter Better-than-average boxing pic is nevertheless hampered by a trite screenplay and frantic overacting by virtually the entire cast. Working-class hometown favorite Micky Ward (Mark Wahlberg, playing a real-life fighter) must overcome the "help" of his crack-addicted [illegible] older [illegible] (Christian Bale) and their overbearing [illegible] (Melissa Leo) while trying to punch his way to the top. Also in Micky's corner is his equally tough girlfriend (Amy Adams). The fight sequences are the best thing [illegible]. The [illegible] script by [illegible] of [illegible] David O. Russell [illegible] what he must, but Micky's story is so [illegible] *Rocky* [illegible] *Raging Bull*. Why didn't they [illegible] a documentary instead? (114 min.) [illegible]

For Colored Girls Tyler Perry directs, produces, and [illegible] the [illegible] based on Ntozake Shange's [illegible] play *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* and starring Janet Jackson, Loretta Devine, [illegible] Kimberly [illegible] and others. (120 min.) [illegible]

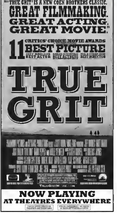
The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest The third and final installment of author Stieg Larsson's "Millennium Trilogy" finds vengeful protagonist Lisbeth Salander (played to the hilt by Noomi Rapace) recovering from her wounds and taking the [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] elements of the Swedish government. [illegible] court for a legal showdown is the [illegible] of the first two parts' mayhem. All the while, [illegible] Lisbeth as the [illegible], and [illegible] journalist [illegible] (Michael Nyqvist) is her perfect complementary [illegible]. Together they make [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by comparison. Director Daniel Alfredson (*The Girl Who Played with Fire*) [illegible], with [illegible] Ulf Ryberg adapting the late Larsson's novel. A winner. (148 min.) [illegible]

Gulliver's Travels Jack Black stars in this modern-day adaptation of Jonathan Swift's 1726 novel. Also starring Jason Segel. Directed by Rob Letterman and [illegible] by Joe Stillman and [illegible] [illegible] Regal [illegible] Stadium [illegible]

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 Cliffhanger seventh episode in the franchise [illegible] [illegible] Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) and his [illegible], then [illegible] down into the ongoing [illegible] Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson), and [illegible] Ron [illegible] (Rupert Grint). [illegible] the Ministry of Magic and the usual [illegible] effects. [illegible] a bit [illegible] the "Three Brothers" [illegible]. Take away the [illegible] stuff and you've got an ordinary big-budget thriller [illegible], but then again [illegible] are more or less the point, aren't they? [illegible] Fiona Shaw, [illegible] Rhys Ifans, [illegible] Andy Serkis [illegible]. The [illegible] spell is definitely wearing off. Screenplay by Steve Kloves, directed by David Yates, from [illegible] J.K. Rowling's young adult novel. (146 min.) [illegible]

How Do You Know James L. Brooks is one of the few TV [illegible] writers (*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, [illegible]) who's earned his stripes as a filmmaker (*Terms of Endearment*, *As Good as It Gets*), mainly by counterbalancing the [illegible] of his [illegible] with [illegible] direction. This sixth feature [illegible] the [illegible] dynamic of his 1987 [illegible] *Broadcast News*: a [illegible] (Reese Witherspoon) [illegible] U.S. Olympic [illegible] [illegible] between a shallow [illegible] (Owen Wilson) [illegible]

Somewhere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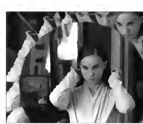

Black Swan

a Washington [illegible], directed [illegible] a smart [illegible] Paul Rudd [illegible] The [illegible] entertaining, but [illegible] with the director's best work; a dramatic [illegible] Jack Nicholson [illegible] (120 min.) [illegible]

I Love You Phillip Morris [illegible] Jim Carrey [illegible] Carrey and Ewan McGregor [illegible] Steven Russell [illegible] Carrey [illegible] (102 min.) [illegible]

Inside Job [illegible] Charles Ferguson (No End in Sight) [illegible] Matt Damon [illegible] Strauss-Kahn [illegible] George Soros. (120 min.) [illegible]

The King's Speech No holiday season would be [illegible] and the Weinstein Company [illegible] (Colin Firth) [illegible] in order to take the throne as King George VI and lead his people against the Nazi threat. The movie [illegible] Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), the Australian [illegible] Timothy Spall [illegible] Churchill. Tom Hooper directed; with [illegible] Guy Pearce [illegible] Derek Jacobi [illegible] (118 min.) [illegible]

Little Fockers The [illegible]

[illegible] *Meet the Parents* grossed $166 million, *Meet the Fockers*, $279 million [illegible] by Harvey Weitz [illegible] Ben Stiller [illegible] Dustin Hoffman [illegible] the Fockers [illegible] Laura Dern [illegible] Jessica Alba [illegible] McCarthy [illegible] Paul Weitz directs. (98 min.) [illegible]

Love and Other Drugs [illegible] Edward Zwick [illegible] Viagra salesman (Jake Gyllenhaal) falling in love with an [illegible] Parkinson's patient (Anne Hathaway)

and meeting his [illegible] (113 min.) [illegible] CSC PCE

Made in Dagenham It may [illegible] *Norma Rae* but it's English [illegible] Sally Hawkins [illegible] *Happy-Go-Lucky* [illegible] 1968. Hawkins [illegible] Bob Hoskins [illegible] and the girls [illegible]

[illegible] but the screenplay (by William Ivory, based on a true story) never [illegible] Miranda Richardson [illegible] Labor Party official [illegible] Directed [illegible] by Nigel Cole. (113 min.) [illegible]

Megamind [illegible] Will Ferrell [illegible] (Tina Fey) [illegible] Brad Pitt [illegible] Jonah Hill [illegible] Alan J. Schoolcraft and Brent Simons. (96 min.) [illegible]

Morning Glory [illegible] Rachel McAdams [illegible] Harrison Ford [illegible] Diane Keaton [illegible] Jeff Goldblum [illegible] Aline Brosh McKenna of *The Devil Wears Prada* [illegible] (107 min.) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt [illegible] Egyptian civilization. CSC

The Next Three Days Just exactly how does a [illegible] (Russell Crowe) go [illegible] Elizabeth Banks [illegible] from the county jail in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania? [illegible] writer-director Paul Haggis' [illegible] Crowe [illegible] Brian Dennehy (Crowe [illegible]), Liam Neeson (a jailbreak expert), Kevin Corrigan [illegible] (133 min.) [illegible]

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale [illegible] Finland [illegible] Santa Claus [illegible] (84 min.) [illegible]

Red Call it "The Make-Older-People-Kick-the-Bucket List." [illegible] Bruce Willis [illegible]

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Morgan Freeman to take mostly qualities revenge on CIA, FBI, and White House goons [illegible] Richard Dreyfuss [illegible] Schwentke's mayhem-filled comedy [illegible] but [illegible] Mary-Louise Parker, and especially Mirren and [illegible] make the most of Jon and Erich Hoeber's [illegible] dialogue, [illegible] Ellis and Cully Hamner's graphic novel. Karl Urban and [illegible] (111 min.) [illegible]

Skyline [illegible] Eric Balfour, Scottie Thompson, [illegible] Brittany Daniel and David Zayas [illegible] alien invasion [illegible] by Greg and Colin Strause and written by [illegible] and Liam O'Donnell. (100 min.) [illegible]

Showtimes Online

More showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

The Social Network All You Need to Friend: Director David Fincher (*The* [illegible] *Button, Fight Club*), screenwriter Aaron Sorkin (*The West Wing*, [illegible]) and a sharp-tongued and lure Ben Mezrich's book on the startup days of Facebook into a [illegible] portrait of the times. Led by Jesse Eisenberg's [illegible] portrait of [illegible] Mark Zuckerberg [illegible] from Harvard to Silicon Valley, the [illegible] Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Rooney Mara, Armie Hammer [illegible] a group of aggressive young geeks [illegible] privilege and [illegible] multi-billion-dollar [illegible] of the [illegible] with plenty to say [illegible] hurt feelings, accidental good [illegible] intelligent. Also Mamma. (121 min.) [illegible]

Somewhere The story of everyone's [illegible]

Tangled The tale of Rapunzel gets a [illegible] makeover in this gorgeous Disney animation, which combines the studio's [illegible] hand-drawn look and the sculptural qualities of digital 3D. The [illegible] and unlikely hero is a [illegible] thief (given voice by Zachary Levi) and [illegible] where the princess (Mandy Moore) is being held by a [illegible] mother (Donna Murphy). Alan Menken's memorable songs, [illegible] the show-stopping "Mother Knows Best," to which Murphy channels all the [illegible] Byron Howard and Nathan Greno directed. (92 min.) [illegible]

The Company Men

They [illegible] self-indulgent [illegible] playing [illegible] New York City [illegible] trying to find her wings [illegible] back in and her family, also playing [illegible] and something deeper [illegible] (98 min.) [illegible]

To Be an Astronaut Wonder what it takes? Take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift off. (40 min.) [illegible]

The Tourist Who cares "romantic" spy flick and international woman of mystery Angelina Jolie [illegible] Johnny Depp through Venice [illegible] It's not funny enough, and [illegible]

the haphazard [illegible] including [illegible] about the [illegible] of pudding. Chief [illegible] Hollywood [illegible] from his German art [illegible] *The Lives of Others*. [illegible]

Tron: Legacy The Avatar of its day, Disney's [illegible] *Tron* (1982) [illegible] use of CGI in [illegible] though its [illegible] these days, as Disney [illegible] 3-D [illegible] speaks to the theory that its [illegible] laughable now (the story was laughable then). Jeff Bridges [illegible] computer programmer and [illegible] cyber [illegible] though the story [illegible] Garrett Hedlund [illegible] visual design—everything [illegible] Olivia Wilde [illegible] Michael Sheen [illegible] Joseph Kosinski directed. (125 min.) [illegible]

True Grit The Old West is a [illegible] place in this Coen Bros. remake of the 1969 John Wayne-Henry Hathaway version of Charles Portis' novel [illegible] U.S. Marshal named Rooster Cogburn (Jeff Bridges) and [illegible] Hailee Steinfeld [illegible] as the [illegible] in the [illegible] father. As usual, [illegible] and graphic in the violence [illegible] language in 19th-century literary [illegible] the characters' Biblical references and [illegible] and the Choctaw Nation circa 1877. Bridges, Steinfeld, Josh Brolin, Barry Pepper, and Matt Damon [illegible] *No Country for Old Men* [illegible] cinematography by Roger Deakins. Direction and screenplay by Joel and Ethan Coen. (110 min.) [illegible]

Unstoppable Thriller about a runaway train and the two men (played by Denzel Washington and Chris Pine) who must stop it. Directed by Tony Scott, and [illegible] by Mark Bomback. (98 min.) [illegible]

The Warrior's Way Action-fantasy [illegible] Starring Jang Dong-Gun, Geoffrey Rush, Kate Bosworth, and Danny Huston [illegible] by Sngmoo Lee. (100 min.) [illegible]

Winter's Bone [illegible] director Debra Granik made her feature debut with *Down to the Bone* (2004), a [illegible] drama with Vera Farmiga giving a breakout performance as a [illegible] Granik has [illegible] down the economic [illegible] the [illegible] Ozarks. A 17-year-old girl (Jennifer Lawrence) struggles to care for her mentally [illegible] siblings. The [illegible] grows ever more bleak after her daddy [illegible] hero [illegible] and then disappears [illegible] before the family is evicted [illegible] 21st century [illegible] completely persuasive, heightening the [illegible] John Hawkes [illegible]

Yogi Bear Animated adaptation of the kids' TV series, with voices by Dan Aykroyd, Justin Timberlake, and Tom Cavanagh. Directed by Eric Brevig, with a screenplay by Brad Copeland, Joshua Sternin, and Jeffrey Ventimilia. [illegible]

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

The [illegible] (111 min., 1939) Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre [illegible] 8:00)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

The Smartest Guys in the Room (109 min., 2005) [illegible] 6:30 p.m. (Humanist Hall, 7 Pictures: 7:30)

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TRUE GRIT (PG-13)
[illegible]
BLACK SWAN (R)
[illegible]

PIEDMONT 4186 Piedmont at 41st, Oakland
Buy Tix: www.landmarktheatres.com or 777-FILM #020
BLACK SWAN (R)
[illegible]
THE KING'S SPEECH (R)
[illegible]

SHATTUCK 2230 Shattuck at Kittredge, Berkeley
Buy Tix: www.landmarktheatres.com or 777-FILM #015
[illegible]
LITTLE FOCKERS (PG-13)
[illegible]
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7:00 & 9:30 shows are 21+ Only
I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS (R)
[illegible]
Screening Lounge
7:00 & 9:30 shows are 21+ Only
THE SOCIAL NETWORK (PG-13)
[illegible]
THE TOURIST (PG-13)
[illegible]
SOMEWHERE (R)
[illegible]
THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST (R)
[illegible]
127 HOURS (R)
[illegible]
FAIR GAME (PG-13)
[illegible]
[illegible] (PG-13)
[illegible]
MADE IN DAGENHAM (R)
[illegible]
TINY FURNITURE (NR)
[illegible]
RARE EXPORTS: A CHRISTMAS TALE (R)
[illegible]
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The New Film From The Coen Brothers
Jeff Bridges Matt Damon Josh Brolin
One of AFI's Top Ten Movies Of The Year!
TRUE GRIT
(1:45 4:30) 7:15 9:50 and 10
[illegible]
8 Golden Globe Nominations Including
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Wed - Sun (12:15 2:30) 5:10 7:30 9:50
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MON-THUR: 4:35 7:15 9:35

THE FIGHTER (R)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 1:15, 4:15 7:25, 9:55
MON-THUR: 4:15 7:25 9:55

TRON LEGACY Digital 3D (PG13)
FRI-SAT-SUN: 12:45 4:00 7:00 9:45
MON-THUR: 4:00 7:00 9:45

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JUST THE TICKET

Alameda High indie-poppers are just trying to contain their excitement

By Ellen Cushing

Finish Ticket.

Larry Kyant

The members of **Finish Ticket** cannot stop talking — about their lives, about the last show they played, about the pizza they're eating, about anything, really — and though they speak with the typical semi-murmur of most teenage boys, their sheer giddiness at being the subject of a newspaper interview is palpable. In e-mail and in text messages, nearly every one of their sentences ends with an exclamation point. The liner notes for their second EP, *Shake a Symphony*, contain the kind of heartfelt appreciations of their families, friends, and fans that many musicians wouldn't be caught dead writing, let alone publicly.

In other words, they are exactly as excited and exactly as earnest as musicians in their position should be. After just two years, the quintet — vocalist **Brendan Hoye**, his twin brother and bassist **Michael Hoye**, guitarist **Alex DiDonato**, drummer **Garren Orr**, and guitarist **Chris Arellano**, all freshly out of **Alameda High** — has managed to turn the typical suburban garage band trope into something bigger and more real. They've garnered a considerable fan base, played a few high-profile shows (most recently **Live 105's** Not So Silent Night), and fallen in with a lineage of local bands who've been willing to act as mentors. They are, in every way, on the verge of something, personally and professionally. Each of them is in his first year of college (except for DiDonato, who is a sophomore), and as a band, they're at that crucial juncture between being purely amateur and making an honest go of it. Sitting in the wood-paneled pizza parlor where they had some of their first meetings as a group, it's clear how utterly exhilarated — and slightly afraid — they are at entertaining that idea.

Finish Ticket started early, in middle and high school. It actually generated from two bands that came together in what DiDonato describes as "a Brady Bunch kind of thing." The band played wherever it could: public libraries, biker bars, and, once, a metal show ("we were like those skinny little indie kids playing with a band — I think they were called Hemmorrhage," Michael said. Suffice it to say, the band was out of place.) In the course of the last couple years the members financed three EPs by doing chores around the house for their parents. And they amassed a following, first among family and friends at Alameda High, and then slowly beyond.

Along the way, they honed in on an aesthetic that draws inspiration from alt-rock chart-toppers like **Coldplay** and **The Killers**. It's the kind of inoffensive indie-pop that'd be comfortably at home on a broad swath of radio stations. But while many young bands might be inclined to self-consciously push the envelope, these guys are entirely at peace with their pop influence. "I love the construction of a pop song," Brendan said. "I think that's the most successful way to structure a song."

The band's intuitive sense of composition informs many tracks on *Shake a Symphony*. Its stuff is preternaturally good, with glimmers of being truly great. The thrumming, adolescent build on "Rivers" is barely surpassed by the swooning surf guitars on "Evil's Eye" from the band's second EP, *Life Underwater*. Not to mention that Finish Ticket's lyrics show irresistible, wide-eyed optimism. *"We're in an open sea of possibility, resolution/Open your eyes, and see the world in front of you,"* they sing on "We'll Be Okay (Part II)," a particularly bubbly track from the latest EP.

Finish Ticket learned the craft from newly retired local band called **Dizzy Balloon**. The similarities between the two groups are uncanny. Both paid their dues locally, endured the condescension of adults both within and outside the music community, and had to figure out how to appease their fan base — composed largely of teenage girls, not quite the most credibly discerning bloc of music fans out there — while still being taken seriously. After Dizzy frontman **Petros A.P.** blew off Finish Ticket a couple times (by his own admission), the two groups eventually started playing together. Now, Alex and Petros live together in Santa Cruz.

Despite now being scattered at five colleges on two coasts — UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, Cal Poly Pomona, Emerson, and Berklee College of Music — the members of Finish Ticket are still trying to make it work. They're not quite ready to follow Dizzy Balloon's lead and take time off school, even if balancing schoolwork and their newly divergent social lives with the band is exhausting. Instead, they throw shows whenever they can, usually during school breaks. Earlier this month they were forced to campaign for the coveted local opener slot at Not So Silent Night in the midst of cramming for their first-ever college finals. They won — just like Dizzy Balloon did in 2008 — and found themselves opening for **The Smashing Pumpkins, Phoenix** and **My Chemical Romance** at the **HP Pavilion**. Recounting the story, Alex gets so excited that he's almost incomprehensible.

AS A BAND, THEY'RE AT THAT CRUCIAL JUNCTURE BETWEEN BEING PURELY AMATEUR AND MAKING AN HONEST GO OF IT. IT'S CLEAR HOW UTTERLY EXHILARATED — AND SLIGHTLY AFRAID — THEY ARE AT ENTERTAINING THAT IDEA.

Show Details

Finish Ticket plays at the Rickshaw Stop (155 Fell St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Dec. 30, 8 p.m., $12. RickshawStop.com

This week, Finish Ticket will open Dizzy Balloon's final show, as its predecessor has decided to break up in order to pursue various side projects. The symbolism isn't lost on anyone. "Those guys have come a long way," Petros said. "I guess it is sort of a passing-the-torch thing, in a way."

"They played at my first local show at Bottom of the Hill," Michael said. "I always dreamed of opening for them." And then, without even the faintest hint of irony: "I guess it's just really cool to see dreams come true." ●

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Gibson

TRANSFORMATION OF OONA

Oona Garthwaite rose from hippie beginnings to modern hip

By Rachel Swan

For a pop singer, **Oona Garthwaite** grew up remarkably pop-bereft. The second of four children, she was born in Oakland but spent most of her childhood in west Marin. She describes her hometown as "ramshackle." People kept goats and chickens, and let blackberries grow wild in their gardens. Houses were separated by dirt roads. Garthwaite's favorite example of her isolation was that she didn't know who **Michael Jackson** was until after the movie ***Free Willy*** came out in 1993. Someone gave her a doll version of the red "Thriller" outfit for Christmas, and she couldn't understand why it was missing one glove.

"That's so inside out and backwards," Garthwaite said, recounting the story at **Lanesplitter Pizza**. She was wearing a red **Bob Marley** T-shirt and big chandelier earrings, looking every bit the contemporary pop diva. She talked about her past in a tone of mild self reproach.

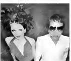
Her producer **Dave Tweedie** demurred. "I think that because of that, all the decisions she makes aren't really based on what's been done a million times," he said. Tweedie insists he was largely drawn to Garthwaite for her lack of pretense. She arrived at his studio three years ago with a guitar and an eight-track demo recorded in her bedroom. She'd come on a lark, after meeting Tweedie's co-producer **Stephen Bradley** at a rock show.

At that time, Garthwaite's understanding of the music industry was limited, as was her musical pedigree. Her father and aunt had fronted a folk-rock band in Berkeley during the Sixties. She knew how to harmonize, and enjoyed singing at home with her sisters. She could plunk a few chords on the piano that her parents bought at a rummage sale. During college, she briefly co-led an all-girl punk outfit. But otherwise, she was a dicey prospect for any producer: no C.V., no budget, no business plan.

In retrospect, Garthwaite readily admits to her own insouciance. "I came in with, like, whatever fuckin' crap I made on this eight track with my dad's SM58 and my friend playing the bongo," she recalled. "I might have even doubled the choruses. It was like, 'Oh, wow, great production value — for a ten year old.'"

For an on-the-cheap product, though, the demo showed remarkable promise. Garthwaite could really sing. She had one of those nasally burlesque-era voices that sound better without any adornments. Garthwaite wasn't naturally a big belter, but she could sing loudly when coaxed. Tweedie was impressed. "She sang without any phony inflections," he said. "And she could actually project. A lot of people can't do that."

Add to that Garthwaite's vintage aesthetic. She's cute in a way that references 1920s flapper style — curly bobbed hair, alabaster skin, bird-like features. She has an interesting first name that works as a performer handle. She can write lyrics that fit an entire storyline into a three-minute song template. The words "pop star" were probably inscribed in her genetic makeup.



Oona

So thought Tweedie when he first took a gamble on the young singer. And he might have been right. Within four hours, he and Bradley had transformed Garthwaite's demo track, "*Slippin*'," into a bona fide song. When Garthwaite heard the result, she was dazzled. She and Tweedie began working together in earnest, using her first name as their band moniker. (They prefer to spell it in all caps.) It was clearly the smartest decision that either of them ever made.

Oona quickly rose from playing open mics at **Hotel Utah** to opening for bands like New York power trio **Semi Precious Weapons**. In 2009, the duo was voted "Best Bay Area Breakout Artist" in a competition produced by **MTV2**. Shortly thereafter, Oona's song "Tore My Heart" was featured on the reality TV show *So You Think You Can Dance*. A tango with a staccato dance beat and a petulant *la lay-eh-ey-eh* hook, it quickly caught on in the blogosphere.

"Tore My Heart" is noticeably absent from *Shhhhout!*, the album that Oona released digitally in November, but it's still the best example of Garthwaite's style. She's a brash, saucy performer who seems to prefer up-tempo dance beats and richly layered horns. She performs with a live band on stage, but her recorded songs are sample-driven. Many of them sound like sped-up blues ballads. The bridge to "I Wanna Know You" relies heavily on piano and electric guitar. "Trouble" begins with a barely decipherable (perhaps unintentional) nod to **Pat Benatar**, but it turns into a rap song. "Haunting Me" is both a lament and a scold.

Show Details
Oona performs at Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Jan. 6. 9 p.m. $8, $10.
BottomoftheHill.com

Two things prevail in Oona's music. One is Garthwaite's peppery voice. The other is the gloss on the production. Oona's tunes all point to their own artifice. They sound lush and gaudy, with crisp drum patterns and sharp studio effects. Anyone who knows Garthwaite's backstory would probably expect her to be a **Joni Mitchell** or a **Buffy Sainte-Marie**. Instead, she's pop all the way. She wears an asymmetrical hair part. She sings without any inhibitions. Her music celebrates excess. ●

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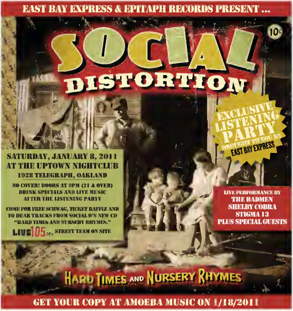

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CD REVIEWS

FAST-FORWARD MOTION

A Tron legacy, a rock legacy, and the legacy of Martin Luther King.

Daft Punk

Tron Legacy

The soundtrack to *Tron: Legacy*, beloved by French house maestros **Daft Punk**, is the sound of technological doom and all-encompassing isolation. **Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo** and **Thomas Bangalter** are actually capable of real warmth — their best known single "One More Time" is a sublime bed of fluttering vocoder coos and candy-coated synths. But *Tron: Legacy* feels resolutely inhuman.

Like *Inception* from earlier this summer, *Tron* the film is a big, compulsively watchable mind fuck, best enjoyed after three hits of acid. Daft Punk's score, too, sets an appropriate tone of horror. The sexless psychodrama of "Arena," the bombastic stomp of "Rectifier," and the ballacnogeric urgency of "Recognizer" are maybe the best exemplifiers of the band's aesthetic. Each song comes bathed in busy, multi-textured orchestral fanfare. "Adagio for Tron" is a touch more melancholy but no less unnerving, with a crescendo of strings that explode like fragments of meteor.

At 22 songs and 58 minutes, the *Tron: Legacy* soundtrack feels marginally bloated and the relentless menace is more stable than thrilling. *Things* come alive a bit during *Tron*'s second half, thanks to the percussion-oriented swing of back-to-back highlights "End of Line" and "Derezzed," but the vibrant variation of older discs like *Discovery* is nowhere to be found here. Still, in a year that has been wretchedly short on foreboding future pop — Massive Attack's *Heligoland* and The Knife's *Tomorrow, In a Year* are the sole examples that come to mind — the *Tron: Legacy* soundtrack qualifies as a flawed but painstaking and ambitious triumph. (Walt Disney)

— *M.T. Richards*

Marcus Shelby Orchestra

Soul of the Movement: Meditations on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Earlier this year, East Bay saxophonist **Howard Wiley** drew upon visits to Louisiana's Angola State Prison to craft *12 Gates to the City*, an evocative work inspired by the gospel songs, spirituals, and chants he encountered there. Now San Francisco bassist and composer **Marcus Shelby** answers with a jazz-concept album-slash-historical-document of his own, *Soul of the Movement: Meditations on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Shelby previously composed an oratorio on the life of **Harriet Tubman** titled "Bound for the Promised Land," so maybe it's in his blood. Shelby's mastery of musical storytelling certainly *feels* effortless. While Wiley's *12 Gates* is consciously artistic, embracing tones and moods that call attention to themselves and their functions, *Movement* is just the opposite. That is to say, it's more self-referential, even abstract. Until **Faye Carol** appears singing a brooding, powerfully spiritual "We Shall Overcome" six tracks and thirty minutes in, *Movement* feels, at least superficially, like an excellent jazz album. Even the next track, the seven-minute "Trouble on the Bus," which opens with and ultimately rides along a stiff, plucked almost menacing bass line courtesy of Shelby, is first a stellar composition and second a Civil Rights treatise. "Go Tell It on the Mountain" may be the most overt comment instrumentally; it goes with the flow, but its vocals impose their own inescapable context — so powerful that the next track, a reimagining of **Curtis Mayfield**'s 1967 soul number "We're a Winner," benefits immensely as a result. But the beauty of *Movement* lies ultimately in its deft stacking of modalities: Martin Luther King, Jr. homage; Civil Rights testimony; historical text; and base musical experience. (Porto Franco Records)

— *Nate Seltenrich*

At the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium (99 Grove St., San Francisco) on Monday, Jan. 17.

Steve Wynn and the Miracle 3

Northern Aggression

While some rock 'n' roll types fade after their second or third album, others get better (or at least maintain a respectable level of quality) with age. **Steve Wynn** is a prime exemplar of the latter contention. He has been performing for nigh-on three decades, and while some would hardly blame him for coasting on past successes, he maintains that fire. It's tempered by maturity, but still crackling.

Aggression is but a further refinement of Wynn's modus operandi over the past few years. It's no-frills, (primarily) two guitars-bass-and-drums, feedback-flecked, tight but never slick, sardonic, early rock 'n' roll in the grand tradition — think **Neil Young & Crazy Horse**, **John Lennon**'s early-Seventies work, the rowdier side of **Bob Dylan**, **Frank Black & the Catholics**, **Velvet Underground** circa *Loaded*, **Alejandro Escovedo**. Wynn's world-weary singing still drips with good-natured disdain, the guitars snarl and smolder, drumbeats pop and crash like firecrackers in metal trashcans. Highlights are a-plenty: the eerily melancholic slide guitar on the thundering "Cloud Splitter"; the terse, blues- and old-school soul-tinged ambiance of the wary "Consider The Source"; and the wiry VU/Television/Feelies amphetamine-rush rave-up of "Colored Lights." If beings not-of-this-world asked me, "What is this thing you humans call rock music?" *Northern Aggression* would be one of the discs I'd spin for them. (Yep Roc)

— *Mark Keresman*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/cd3

LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

Silvestre Martinez

Heritage

Remarkably well put together, this album features seven original Latin dance tunes and one cover. Percussionist **Silvestre Martinez** leads the band, which is about 80-percent rhythm section in composition. On disc, it sounds perfectly balanced. Conga, bata, coro, cajón and various other tambores bolster each tune with a driving, propulsive groove. **Sheldon Brown** puts-putts into three different types of saxophones. The effect is mesmerizing. (Chemik Records)

Keak Da Sneak, PSD Tha Drivah, Messy Marv

Da Bidness Part II

This sequel to a 2007 "super-group" debut starts with an unequivocal death threat but the energy picks up from there. Well, mostly. "Ghetto Love" smartly builds on a **Donny Hathaway** sample. **Keak Da Sneak** lacks his usual pep. His rap on "Pole Princess" sounds uncharacteristically laid-off. PSD reveals a little too much about himself by name-checking MySpace on "Bidness Man Crush." (SMC)

Fertudo

Hot City

Keane Li has one of those dandy modern rock voices that would make any listener nostalgic for Nineties grunge. The foursome plays dry, skeletal arrangements with little dynamic variation. The solos are linear, while Li's singing always sounds heartfelt and dramatic. "*****" is a minute-long waltz played on bass and electric guitar. It's probably the band's most interesting moment. (self released)

At the Rockit Room (406 Clement St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Dave Dub & The Sutter Cain Gang

Mind Police

This might be the world's most bedeviling marriage of punk and backpacker hip-hop. **Dave Dub** manages to completely disconnect his vocals from the rhythm of a song and make it catchy nonetheless. "Freak" is a prime example. So is "Hitler's Nightmare." "I Need It" features a bizarre rap from beloved backpacker **Myka 9**, who toddles around the downbeat, but never hits it directly. Best of all, **Medusa** makes a cameo — on the opener, no less. (My Entertainment)

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Dec 30 - Jan 1 this week!
DIANNE REEVES
LIVE NEW YEARS EVE
Coast-to-Coast Broadcast on NPR!
Sun Jan 2 this weekend!
EDGAR WINTER BAND
Tues Jan 4 next week!
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Jan 5-6
THE OHIO PLAYERS
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Wed Jan 5
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 30

EAST BAY

All Ages

Live Music Jam blues, rock, & originals. P.A. w/ mics & drum set provided, Link2 Fine Art, 6:30 pm, $5

Blues, Folk & Country

Frank Jaffe solo guitar, Casa Vino, 7-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Lovely Builders w/ [illegible] & [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8

New Year's w/ **Primus** performing Sailing the Seas of Cheese w/ The Residents (Dec. 30) & Les Claypool's Fancy Brigade w/ The Dead Kenny G's (Dec. 31), Fox Theater, Dec. 30-31, 8 pm, $42.50-$95

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] [illegible], 10 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

New Year's Eve Celebration w/ **Lalah Hathaway** Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, [illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Old-Time Music Jam Session Atlas Cafe, 8-10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $7

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

[illegible] Brothers Le Colonial, 7-10 pm, free

New Year's Celebration w/ **Dianne Reeves** Yoshi's San Francisco, Dec. 30-Jan. 1, 8 & 10 pm, [illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm, $12, $14

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 5 pm, $6

[illegible] w/ Face the Red & Cat Party, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $8

[illegible] Marching Band w/ The Bodice Rippers & [illegible], The Independent, 5 pm, $15-$17

[illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm, $13

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Flamenco Thursdays traditional music & dancing w/ [illegible], Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12

FRIDAY 31

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

New Year's Eve Bluegrass Bash w/ High Country, [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 5 pm, [illegible]

New Year's Eve Zydeco Music Party w/ **Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic** Eagles Hall, 5 pm, $40

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

New Year's Eve w/ **Innerspace** Jupiter, 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] New Year's Eve w/ [illegible], Stork Club, 9 pm

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Uptown, 9 pm, $15

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 924 Gilman, 8 pm, $7

New Year's: The Bash w/ **[illegible]** w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 pm

[illegible] w/ **[illegible]** plus Mystic Knights of the Cobra, Revenge, & Ex Girlfriend, [illegible] Tavern, 8 pm, $5-$10

[illegible] [illegible], Roadhouse, 5 pm, $10

New Year's w/ **Primus** performing Sailing the Seas of Cheese w/ The Residents (Dec. 30) & Les Claypool's Fancy Brigade w/ The Dead Kenny G's (Dec. 31), Fox Theater, 8 pm, $42.50-$95

[illegible] New Year's The Bash [illegible] & variety acts plus a live performance by [illegible], The Uptown, 8 pm, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Flight NYE w/ **[illegible]** [illegible], 9 pm, $5-$10

New Year's Eve Celebration w/ **Lalah Hathaway** Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, [illegible]

New Year's Eve Celebration w/ **[illegible]** w/ [illegible] & the April Fishes, [illegible], 8:30 pm, [illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] live flamenco guitar, [illegible], 7:30 pm, free

New Year's [illegible] Bash w/ [illegible], Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $20

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Youth Speaks [illegible] Open Mic Luggage Store Gallery, 7 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Orchestra Top of the Mark, 9 pm, [illegible]

Lavay Smith & The Red Hot Skillet Lickers w/ [illegible], Mr. Lucky & The Cocktail Party featuring Ralph Carney, & special appearances by [illegible], Bimbo's 365 Club, 5 pm, $100

New Year's Celebration w/ **Dianne Reeves** Yoshi's San Francisco, 2011, 8 & 10 pm, [illegible]

New Year's Eve Featuring [illegible] COCA, [illegible], $25, $50, $75

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Primus play the Fox Theater on Dec. 30 & 31.

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C&C

Rock & Pop

Girls Issak The Fillmore, 8 pm, $89.50

Wooden Dolls w/ Phenylamines, The Starfield, 9 pm, $32.25-$47.25

An Evening w/ Further Featuring Bill Lesh & Bob Weir Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 7:30 pm, $65-sold out

Goosters w/ Carter Walter, Redwood Tavern, 9 pm, $15

The Mc Macdonalds w/ Lindamemaries & Raj Mehirath, Slim's, 9 pm, $40-$45

Surf Fiester w/ Monte & Sassy77, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $20-$25

New Years Eve w/ Surprise Me Mr. Dream w/ Big Light, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $50

New Year's Eve w/ The Buttercream Gang w/ Bradlaugh Helm & Sonia Rao, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $10

Sonny & the Sunsets w/ The Fresh & Onlys, Amnesia, 9 pm, $20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

New Year's Eve w/ Rebirth Brass Band w/ New Orleans Klezmer Allstars, The Independent, Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 9 pm, $65

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Balmoral Fever: A New Year's Eve Extravaganza w/ B-Side Players, Ella & The Absolute Experience, LaCosta, La Santa Monica Coven, Balmoral, the Congress, plus Jimmy Lava & Vicki Viva of Rich Stick Bhangra, West Bay Conference Center, 8 pm, $35

Pilo Balmoral w/ Fuga Ma Rouge, Eddy & Gabriel Bravo, Pachamama Stage, Costa Cortez, Belleville, Nancy Parker "El Lobrigano", Peruvian singer Luis Ramos, performances Fernando Sanjuan & Quentin Nava, Carole Zertuche, Flamenco dancers, & DJs, Peña Pachamama, 8 & 7:30 pm, $99-$125

Roots Style New Year's Eve 2011 w/ Natural Vibrations & Native Elements, plus Irie Vibe Nee (Stoner Vibes) & Amber (South Fyah Sounds), Mission Room, 8 pm, $25-$30

New Year's Eve w/ Big Tings & Mission Awe Medley Music, 50 Mason, 9 pm, $25

New Year's Eve w/ The Balmoral w/ Bolt, 501, Santa Antonio Bandz Hall, 9 pm, $50

SATURDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

High on Fire plays the New Parish on Jan. 1

Burlesque 'n' Beats featuring Blue Bone Express & Hot Pink Feathers, Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, $10

East Bay Honky-Tonk w/ DJ States spins classic country, bluegrass, alt-country, honky-tonk, blues, & more, The Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jeb's Jupiter Jazz Rounds Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Rose & Jay Taste of Jay, 6:30 pm, free

Kids

Los Amiguitos de La Gente Saturday morning children's show w/ live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $6, kids $4

Rock & Pop

High on Fire New Year's Day Bash The New Parish, 9 pm, $20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

New Year's Eve Celebration w/ Lalah Hathaway Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $5-$35, $35-$50, $40

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands, Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lowcost Gent Doghouse Rooms, 9-11 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Baguette Quartette & Bonebrace Dia Red Poppy Art House, 8 pm, $15-$20

Shelec Balmoral Delights musical revue and spoof of pop culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$77

Kim Nalley Brian Rooms, 7 pm, $35

New Year's Celebration w/ Dante Roomes Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $60-$80

Rock & Pop

Juan Moore w/ the Rot, Eaters, & Forte, Hemlock Tavern, 8 pm, $7

Phoenix w/ JP Inc., Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $12

Rock, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

New Year's Eve w/ Rebirth Brass Band w/ New Orleans Klezmer Allstars, The Independent, 9 pm, $65

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DOORS 8:30 / SHOW 9:30 / $23 ADV

SUN 1/9
BIG SEAN WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
DOORS 8:00 / SHOW 9:00 / $20 ADV / $25 / 18+

SUN 1/16
CAST OF CLOWNS
FEATURING: GREG ANTON (ZERO), MELVIN SEALS (JERRY GARCIA BAND), DAVID SYVESTER (TOM WAITS AND...), CAMO WRIGHT (CAST OF CLOWNS)
DOORS 8:00 / SHOW 8:30 / $7 ADV / $10 / 18+

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WED 12/29 9:00 pm $11 REGGAE/SKA DUB BIG TINGS + FLAVOR OF THE MONTH CLUB
THU 12/30 9:00 pm $11 BEATLES JAM BAND THE RUBBER SOULDIERS with The Rowen Brothers and David Gans
FRI 12/31 8:00 pm $36 NEW YEAR'S EVE BALKAN BASH BRASS MENAZERI EDESSA JOE FINK & LESLIE BONNETT
SUN 1/2 8:30 pm $11 AFROBEAT FUNK/JAZZ IN MOTION TRIO + special guests!
TUE 1/4 8:30 pm $11 CAJUN THE AUX CAJUNALS 8:00 pm Cajun/Zydeco dance lessons
WED 1/5 8:00 pm $7 FOLKDANCE BALKAN FOLKDANCE 7:00 pm dance lessons
THU 1/6 8:30 pm $11 KLEZMER EASTERN EUROPEAN VERETSKI PASS Dancing led by Bruce Bierman
FRI 1/7 8:00 pm $15 $10 students SQUARE DANCE STAIRWELL SISTERS calling by EVIE LADIN Open band and open callers!
SAT 1/8 9:00 pm $12 $10 students ZYDECO ZYDECO FLAMES West Coast's premier zydeco band 8:00 pm Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson

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PICKS

Hoodstock Countdown to Armageddon 2011

You won't find that many New Year's Eve parties that cost $10 at the door and stay open to the eighteen-and-up crowd all night, baby. So Hoodstock is a gem and a rarity. The whole concept behind it was to incorporate all slices of the hipster world — backpacker hip-hop, electro-pop, DJ mash-up music, burner culture, shoegaze, punk rock, West Oakland warehouse, etc. — into one big flaming ball of PBR and disaffection. **Mochipet**, **Hatchet**, **Religious Girls**, **Planet Booty**, **The Love Dimension**, **Miggy Stardust**, **Handsome Vets**, **Foxy Loco**, and **RNB Millionaires** will all mingle more or less peacefully at the **Oakland Metro** (630 3rd St., Oakland) this New Year's Eve. Party begins Friday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. $10. OaklandMetro.org *— Rachel Swan*

San Francisco Chamber Orchestra

Three cheers for **Benjamin Simon**'s **San Francisco Chamber Orchestra**. Once again it presents a free concert on New Year's Eve early enough to leave Santa plenty of time to squeeze those presents down the chimney. Two thousand eleven debut artist **Nathan Chan**, 16, joins double bassist **Michel Taddei** and excellent soprano **Anja Strauss** in music by **Mozart**, **Tchaikovsky**, and **Jon Deak**. Get there early on Friday, Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. in **First Congregational Church** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley). SFChamberOrchestra.org *— Jason Victor Serinus*

Rhonda Vincent

Rhonda Vincent

Rhonda Vincent's passionate vocals and superlative skills on mandolin, fiddle, and guitar have made her one of the top acts in modern bluegrass. She dabbled in mainstream country early in her career, but eventually began playing traditional bluegrass, with songs that show off a combination of lightning-fast picking and contemporary subject matter. With backing quartet **The Rage**, she delivers her music with a hard of Texas swing that makes it flow smoothly. She's touring to promote her new album *Taken*, the first on her own Upper Management label. In the meantime, she continues to make music that appeals to folkies, bluegrass buffs, and country music fans alike. At **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison, Berkeley) on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m. $28.50, $34.50. TheFreight.org *— J. poet*

SUNDAY 2

EAST BAY

All Ages

Open Mic hosted by Lil' Gay Blue and Girl Garage. Long Haul, 7 pm, free

Blues, Folk & Country

Jimmy's All-Star Super Sessions Jimmy hosts a different blues band every week. Pete's Restaurant, 5 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ba Melina Trio w/ special guests. Anthonys, 6:30 pm, $15

Jim Tolomeo Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz. Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

New Year's 4th Celebration w/ Lalah Hathaway Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $5-$16, $25, $50-$100

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Suhaila Salimpour's Belly Dance Nights featuring students from Suhaila Salimpour School of Dance. Club Montero's, 8 pm, $7

SAN FRANCISCO

All Ages

Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $3

Blues, Folk & Country

Edgar Ramos Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 pm, $10

Lonesome Dias Kate Amnesia, 8 pm, free

Virgil Harvey and Thunder Blues Yoshi pm, Skip's Tavern, 4:30 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Michael Athans on piano for Sunday champagne brunch. Top of the Mark, 10 am-1 pm, $60 for brunch plus gratuity and tax

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ramon Blabbel Dollyton musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming. Blue Fugue, 7 & 9 pm, $25-$27

Kelly Price Old Blues & Jazz Kuss w/ Emperor Norton's Jazz Band. Amnesia, 8 pm, $5

Kim Nalley Press Room, 7 pm, $65

Kurt Ribak Trio Chaya Brasserie, 6-9 pm, free

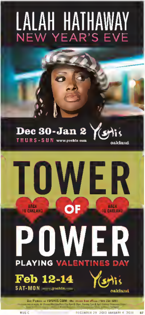
MONDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

California Flight plus special comedy guests. 5th Street Restaurant & Lounge, 8-11 pm, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret



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C&C

Mar Lani Trio Led by Phillip Greenlief, w/ special guests, Kingman's Ivy Room, 9-11:15 pm, free

Dan Project w/ Marcus Aaberg, [illegible] Wiley, Gareth Taylor, David Ewell, & special guests, Jazzschool, 10 pm, $6

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Mondays w/ Belle Monroe & Her Brew Grass Boys [illegible] 9 pm, free

[illegible] Jam with A.J. Ship's Tavern, 7:30 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le [illegible] 1 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Boone Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

TUESDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Ann Cajunada Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson with Sheryl Medalie at 8 p.m. Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Country Bluegrass Dance Night w/ Gordon [illegible] Kirk's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free

[illegible] Peter's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring [illegible] from the Berkeley [illegible] 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Kimball's Music Box Oakland featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more The Layover, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lounge: Late Night Live w/ The California Honeydrops Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm, $7

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Emma D'Ambrosio [illegible] 8 pm, $40

Jazz Jam hosted by [illegible] Ship's Tavern, 8-11:30 pm, free

Marty Eggers Pier 23, 8:30 pm, free

Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy Jones plays retro jazz, plus a swing dance lesson, [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Some Games w/ [illegible] Squad & [illegible], Elbo Room, 8 pm, $6

[illegible] God w/ Psychology of [illegible]

Melvins & [illegible] & Maker, [illegible], 6 pm, $8

Brothers Brothers Foundation w/ [illegible] & My Second Surrender [illegible] 5 pm, $6

John [illegible] w/ [illegible] Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $11

Switchblade Riot w/ Plan 5 & Bloodlines, [illegible] of the Hill, 9 pm, $8

Rock Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Anthony [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $20-$35

WEDNESDAY 5

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Alabama Age [illegible] Bar, 7-8 pm, free

[illegible] Monroe & Her Band Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 pm, $32.50-$34.50

Whiskey Brothers Monroe and bluegrass, Albatross Pub, 5 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Four on the Floor: Oakland Nights, Linda Tillery, Gordon [illegible] and Kai Eckhardt Yoshi's, 8 pm, $20

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free

Will [illegible] piano Room, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space 416 25th St., Oakland 510-444-7263

4 Degrees on [illegible] 1403 Solano Ave Albany 510 528-1237

924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510 525-9926

Air Bar & Lounge 492 9th St., [illegible] Plaza, Oakland 510-444-2371

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave Berkeley 510-843-2473 Albatross Pub.com

[illegible] Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-444-8505

Amoeba Music 2455 Telegraph Ave Berkeley 510-549-1125

Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave Martinez 925-228-8885

Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510 472-3170

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054.

[illegible] 4825 Hopyard, Pleasanton, 925-416-0212

Bay Street [illegible] 5616 Bay St., Emeryville

[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790

Bench and Bar 510 17th St., Oakland 510-444-2266

[illegible] Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St., Alameda, 510-523-8007

The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8525

Blakes on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886.

Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5198.

[illegible] 175 E Vineyard Ave., Livermore, 925-249-9800.

Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550.

Club 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland 510-268-9425

[illegible] 420 3rd St., [illegible], 510-443-7185.

Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-465-4224

[illegible] 629 Ferry St., Martinez, 925 228-3348

Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave Oakland 510-463-2681

[illegible] Sports Bar 1524 [illegible] Walnut Creek 925-932-1331

[illegible] 1305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-285-3285

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave Oakland 510-338-4811.

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-2350

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way Berkeley 510-848-3696

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave Oakland TheFoxOakland.com

[illegible] 1 W. Tennyson Rd. Hayward 510 786-[illegible]

Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley 510-644-2020

Hertz Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-642-9988.

Island Paradise Club 1430 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-865-3225.

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373

[illegible] Community Church of the East Bay 1414 [illegible] St., Berkeley 510 848-0237

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2385

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277

Karibbean City 1430 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-251-9700

Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland 510-444-6408

King Yen Chinese Restaurant [illegible] Solano Ave, Berkeley

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave, Oakland, 510-465-5464

Kingman's Ivy Room 860 San Pablo Ave, Albany, 510-524-9299.

Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-601-9500

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley 510-849-2568

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4793.

Lakeshore [illegible] Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave, Oakland 510-893-2484

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland 510-464-3543

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda 510-523-4700

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677

[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 2721 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-284-7065

Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland 510-[illegible]

Missouri Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2080

Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd., Saratoga 408-741-2822

Nomad Café 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible]

Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland 510-238-4830.

Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland 510-763-1146

ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland 510-569-2121.

[illegible] 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible]

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400.

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474. TheNewParish.com)

Peter's Restaurant 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-284-7111

Pleasanton Hotel 855 Main St., Pleasanton 925-846-8106.

Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland 510 536-2050

Radio 435 13th St., Oakland

[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette 925-284-4887

Rooster's Roadhouse 1700 [illegible] Ave, Alameda 510-337-9190

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland 510-444 7224

[illegible] Rock [illegible] Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0477

Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley 510-548-1159

[illegible] Nightclub 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd (Ste 120), San Ramon

Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View 650 967-3000

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave, Alameda, 510-522-1300.

[illegible] 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-937-1888.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-848-5107

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley 510-845-6830.

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-2082.

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174

Sweet Fingers 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro 510-553-9000

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-451-8100

[illegible] Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 925-685-9815

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450.

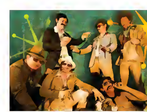
Wheeler Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4200

White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave, Oakland 510-652-3820

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland 510 238-9200

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-839-9124



KainSSam performs at the Shattuck Down Low on New Years Eve

Big Thief Irish music showcase presented by Pirate Cat Radio. This week: Triangle-ABC, Club Grabest, & Red Point, The Uptown, 8 pm, free

Megafauna w/ Easy Stevens, Sunday Rogue & Suite Unraveling, Stork Club 8 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 pm, 415-377

[illegible] Fillmore and the [illegible] Top of the Mark, 7:30 & 10:30 pm, $10

[illegible] Tribute to Jean-Luc Ponty [illegible] Room, 8 pm, $25

Rock & Pop

Ash Room w/ The [illegible] & [illegible], [illegible] Zwart, 9 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible] & the Cellar Room, [illegible], 8 pm, $7

[illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Angel, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The [illegible] Players Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $25 & 10 pm, $25-$35

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Lounge, Global Movement w/ [illegible] 7th St. **[illegible]** w/ **[illegible], [illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $1

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

222 Club [illegible] St. 415-44[illegible]-0822.
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St. 415-541-9574
Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
[illegible] 1815 Haight St. 415-831-1200
[illegible] Social Club 917 Folsom St. 415-974-1585
[illegible] 1017 Bush St. 415-771-1016.
[illegible] Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl., 415-362-8730
Bacar Restaurant and Wine Salon 448 Brannan St. 415-904-4100
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St. 415-831-5620
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway 415-386-8439
Beauty Bar 2299 Mission St., 415-285-0323
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave 415-474-0365
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St. 415-292-2583
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St. 415-621-4455.
Bruno's 2389 Mission St., 415-643-5200
Cafe Du Nord 2170 Market St. 415-861-5016.
Cafe International 508 Haight St. 415-552-7390
Caffe Trieste 601 Vallejo St., 415-982-2605
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332
Catalyst Cocktails 312 Harriet St., 415-621-1722
The Cellar 685 Sutter St. 415-441-5678.
[illegible] 293 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible]
Club Fugazi 678 Green St., 415-421-4222
Club Six 60 Sixth St. 415-863-1221
[illegible] 3710 Mission St. 415-[illegible]
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave 415-864-6000
[illegible] 2801 Leavenworth St., 415-[illegible]
DNA Lounge 375 11th St. 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St. 415-626-0880
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St. 415-885-4074
El [illegible] 2700 16th St., 415-437-[illegible]
El Rio 3158 Mission St. 415-282-3325.
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788.
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Geary St., 415-[illegible]
The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-646-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000
[illegible] 520 4th St. 415-[illegible]
The [illegible] Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave. 415-673-5716
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave 415-392-4400
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St. 415-771-1421
Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave 415-291-8255.
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994
[illegible] Lounge 1750 Mission St. 415-864-5585
[illegible] Lounge 500 [illegible] St. 415-[illegible]
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St. 415-647-2888
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
The [illegible] 86 West Portal Ave
Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St 415-454-5238.
Park Chalet Brewery 1000 Great Highway 415-386-8439
[illegible] 3031 [illegible] St., 415-646-0018
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-[illegible]
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St. 415-921-1695.
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] 20th St., 415-[illegible]
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
Rockit Room 406 Clement St., 415-387-6343
[illegible] 222 [illegible] St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275
Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave 415-282-3456
Skylark 3089 16th St. 415-621-9294
Slim's 333 11th St. 415-522-0333.
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave 415-550-8286
Stud Bar 399 9th St. 415-863-6623
Sub/Mission Gallery 2183 Mission St. 415-255-7227
Supperclub 657 Harrison St. 415-348-0900
Swig Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292.
Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-503-0393
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St., 415-[illegible]
Tunnel Top 601 Bush St., 415-986-8900.
Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-788-0228
The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722
[illegible] 2114 Sutter St. 415-[illegible]
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St. 415-655-5600.

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FRI 12/31
NEW YEARS EVE WITH INNERSPACE!!
$8 before 1:30 – $10 till midnight
Jupiter will be ringing in 2011 with a great band right out of Oakland and a Jup-favorite this past year: INNERSPACE!! Not to miss, Jupiter will be doing it up with party favors, champagne toasts, special dinner menu and a great night of music!
Held up down Wednesday nights at the Layover in Oakland, Innerspace (aka 'Inside is the Way') is an improvisational progressive rock duo from Oakland, CA comprised of keyboardist Steve Taylor and drummer extraordinaire Daniel [illegible]. Drawing from disparate elements such as progressive rock, drum and bass, and [illegible], they began creating a sound that was utterly unique, funky and groundbreaking. Calling it prog-hop and stunt jazz, amongst other names, they have collaborated with a diverse range of artists including members of [illegible] Bright Eyes and Rogue Wave (whom Steve has contributed keyboards to for much of the last year)
www.stevetaylormusic.com
www.myspace.com/stevetaylorband

The Uptown
OAKLAND

12/27 DOOR 9PM NO COVER
DIG THIS!
THE TET HOLIDAY, MOCCRETRO
TH MRCY HOT SPRINGS, OUTLAW

12/31 DOOR 9PM $10
UPTOWN & HUBBA HUBBA'S
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COMEDY, CIRCUS & VARIETY ACTS! LIVE MUSIC
LIVE PERFORMANCE BY
THE HI-RYTHM HUSTLERS
COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAIGN AT MIDNIGHT!

1/6 DOOR 9PM $8
VOWS
THE AEROSOLS, LENS

1/7 DOOR 6PM/SHOW 9PM NO COVER!
FIRST FRIDAY!
MAN IN SPACE
MANIAC GHOST AND THE CITY, JAMES LESTE

1/8 DOOR 9PM NO COVER!
SOCIAL DISTORTION LISTENING PARTY

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TURBONEGRA, THE DISCIPLES

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LA PLEBE, THE COMPLAINTS

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 30

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and VJ Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn. 9 pm. $3; students free w/ valid ID.
Damn Gina w/ DJs Kool Karlo & Chris Fox. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm. free
Hypnotized Thursdays Radio. 10 pm. free
DJ Dawes [illegible]. 9 pm. free
Voodoo Ghetto Pop From Dawes Inc. DJ Kool Kyle spins reggae, local hits, & more. Kitty's. 10 pm. free
Happy Hour w/ DJ Dominion spinning reggae, African pulse, Voodoo Brazilian, boogie disco & funk. Kitty's. 7 pm. free
Oakland Vibe featuring DJs Poizen, Uncle Joe. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm. $5
Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Dalva. 10 pm-2 am. free
Tasty theme night w/ DJ Mr. Voodoo spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21. 9 pm. $12-$15
Throwback Thursdays Shadow Nightclub. 7 pm. $4

FRIDAY 31

EAST BAY

Caribbean Night DJs Electro and Rockfas spin reggae, soca, salsa, and R&B. Bench Paradise Club. 9 pm. $10
Oakland w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan opening the [illegible] music in the Bay Area. White Rabbit. 9 pm. $5
Voodoo Stacked Ent. & Whistler Dance Presents: New Year's Eve Bash 2011 Dawes on Telegraph. 8 pm
Hella Profitable Oakland w/ DJs Gator, Rocka Selector, Honey Wax, Mayo Vida, Fresh Wolf. [illegible] Street Town. 8 pm.
Woodstock Cool Dance to Armageddon 2011 w/ Mochyeti, [illegible] Partgirls, Planet Booty, The Love Dimension, Magic Sparkles, Mandalome Nein, Foxy Lane. [illegible] House. 8 pm. $10
Boo Boo New Year's Eve Party Dawes and Bar. 9 pm
Old-School hip-hop and funk. Radio. 9 pm. free
Quixotic DJ [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & dub. Easy Lounge. 10 pm. free
Retro-Intense Rockit Royal Dalva '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free
Totally w/ DJ Jared Plaxyes spinning northern soul, [illegible] '60s disco punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room. 10 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 New Year's Eve w/ DJs Dangerous Dan, Skip (New Wave City), Raphael Fierro & Mark Andrus. Mighty. 10 pm. free
Dance NYE 2011 w/ Smash-Up Derby, Adrian & Mysterious D, [illegible], Grand Jensen, & John John [illegible]. 9 pm. $20-$40
Outer: Release The Beat w/ Bootsy Ids & DJ [illegible], plus a champagne toast. Cafe Bar. 9 pm. $15-$25
Cockblock New Year's Eve 2011 w/ Natalie Nuxe, DJ Chino & Stated Cats, DJ Medve, & host The Coyote, Madame Bingo. 9 pm. $20
Dawes hip-hop karaoke night, hosted by DJ White Castle & Heroic Principle. 80CA. 9 pm. free
Sure Eve New Year's Eve w/ DJs [illegible]. 9 pm. $15-$25
Lose Jolie New Year's Eve [illegible]. 9 pm. $10
New Year's Eve Woodstock 2011 w/ Los Rakas, DJ Leydis, DJ Sang, Mr. E, Safe-I, DJ Harvest, DJ Vyon, Jah Warrior Shelter Cosmic Ladies, & Daddy Ralo. Club Six. 9 pm. $50
New Year's Eve 2011 w/ DJ Apollo w/ MCs. 330 Ritch. 9 pm
Streets of San Francisco New Year's Eve 2011 w/ Dave Aude plus DJs Aaron Axelsen, [illegible]. Fort Mason. 9 pm. $50-$200
Oakland Dance Dance w/ The Tower of Hayward Town Band, DJ [illegible]. The Presidio. 10 pm. $10

SATURDAY 1

EAST BAY

Afrobeat Night DJs Damon and Damian spin reggae, soca, salsa, and R&B. Island Paradise Club. 9 pm. $10
Gina Minimal w/ DJs Rum, Gina, Giga T & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Dawes and Bar. 9 pm. $6-$12
Downtempo and Lounge w/ rotating DJs. Scale Groove. 7:30-1:30 pm. free
Dance Saturdays Club 1220. 9 pm. $5
Magic Soul Dudes DJ Peod & guests host [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free
Pop History 101 DJs spin pop hits from the [illegible]. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am. free
Smokey Saturdays DJ Jamo & guests spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaeton, & more. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm. $10
The Stronghold Sound featuring DJ [illegible]. The Layover. 10 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

A-Skillz w/ Stole, Alkali, Tame Monkeh, DJ Kap'n Kirk, & DJ Mellow Prince. Mezzanine. 9 pm. $15
Afternoon w/ DJs Damascus & Damagnon spinning hip-hop, R&B, & old school. Jolly's Pier 50. 10 pm. [illegible] before 11 pm. $10
Club Kingston w/ resident DJs spinning reggae & R&B. Pier 23. 9 pm. $10
Kontrol minimal techno & good house, w/ resident The Sammy P, Craig Kuna, [illegible]. The Endup. 10 pm. free before 11 pm. $15
Momentum w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and dub hits. The Cellar. 9 pm. free before 10 pm. $10 after
Still Ridin' It drum 'n' bass party with DJ [illegible]. 9 pm. free

SUNDAY 2

EAST BAY

Dancehall Academy beats, funk, & more. Easy Lounge. 8 pm. free
King of Kings DJ Smoke One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, dubs, & 'lovers' rock. Shattuck Down Low. 9 pm. $10; ladies/students free before 11 pm
Quiet w/ DJ Mauro spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old school. Shadow Bar & Lounge. 9 pm. free
Soul Sanctuary Dance Community [illegible]. SoulSanctuarydance.com. Alchemia. 11 am-2 pm. $8-$15, free for newcomers or children 12 & under
Sunday Fun's [illegible] Oakland DJs spin [illegible] reggae. The [illegible] Club. 7 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dance w/ Safer and Dance plus guests spinning house, tech, deep and soul. Triple Crown. 10 pm
Holding Olive DJ Stepwise & guests spin reggae & dancehall. Underground SF. 9 pm. free 9 pm-10:30 pm. $5

MONDAY 3

EAST BAY

DJ Angie spinning dub, [illegible], & soul. Easy Lounge. 9 pm. free
Rick Rock & Relax w/ Gwei. 4 p.m.-8 p.m. & Mike P. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Club 1220. 4 pm-2 am. free
Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & electro. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am. free
Underground Lounge psycho '60s & porno '70s music. Dalva. 10 pm-2 am. free

TUESDAY 4

EAST BAY

DJ Joe Quixote spinning salsa & Latin funk. Easy Lounge. 9 pm. free
DJ Wisdo spinning [illegible]. Weekend Lounge. 9 pm-2 am. free
In Dee Nemo DJ Bonnie spins soulful, sexy, & funky house. Spin Bliss Lounge & Gourmet Pub. 8 pm. free
Soul Fyah DJs Sorg, Kool Kyle, & guests spin reggae, dancehall, & classics. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm. free
Soul Fyah Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm
Vintage featuring DJ Toph One & weekly guests spinning deep cuts from the 60's through tomorrow. Levende East. 7 pm. free

WEDNESDAY 5

EAST BAY

Afternoon Delight w/ DJ Kitty spinning Brazilian funk, & more. Kitty's. 9 pm. free
The Spins Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21. 9 pm. $8-$15
Your's Dance featuring DJ Dials. Forbidden Dance. 9 pm. free
Swerve Punk, ska, new wave, & [illegible] rock w/ DJ [illegible]. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am. free
Voodoo Wednesdays DJ Sandom & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaeton, & more; plus funk classics. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 pm. free

PICK

1984 New Year's Eve

If one misses the days of **Toni Basil** cavorting across a green screen in her cheerleading outfit ("Mickey") or the **Ramones** sauntering through a pet cemetery in full leather-jacket regalia, then boy do we have the New Year's party for you. This Friday, Dec. 31, **DJ Skip** will bring his famed "New Wave City" dance party to **Club Mighty** (119 Utah St., San Francisco) for a night of **Depeche Mode**, **New Order**, **Blondie**, and **Talking Heads** among others — all blended into a seamless, nostalgia-based soundtrack. Dangerous Dan, Raphael Fierro, and Mark Andrus will enhance the festivities. Skip will provide slideshows of vintage music videos, so we can all laugh at the primitive trappings of Generation X. 10 pm. free. Mighty119.com — *Rachel Swan*

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EAST BAY EXPRESS
WED 9PM Free — THE JET SET — DJ SANTERO new weekly international dance party featuring the latest grooves from Africa, Asia, America & beyond
THUR 10PM — JUNGLE BOOGIE — DJs POIZEN, KOOL KYLE & UNCLE JOE hip hop, soul & your requests!
FRI 9PM $25 — NEW YEAR'S EVE — DJs SPAIR & MERE laying down the dance floor w/ classic hip hop, soul & funky; Plus a live performance from OPIO of the World Famous HIEROGLYPHICS CREW
SAT 10PM $10 — SMOKEY SATURDAYS — DJ JAMO & WEEKLY GUESTS classic hip hop, neo soul & world flavors
SUN 9PM Free — THE SOUL FULL GLOW — RESIDENT DJ AEROLOE soulful music for dancing. Get up!!
MON 9PM Free — THREE DAY WEEKEND — DJ C MOSES & MOROCCO SLIM all vinyl hip hop & soul classics
TUES 10PM Free — SOUL FYAH — DJ SERO & WEEKLY GUESTS
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Shattuck Down Low
WED 29TH: MONTUNO SWING
THURS 30TH: "DAMN GINA" DJ'S KOOL KARLO & CHRIS FOX
FRI 31ST: NYE: TAKE FLIGHT TIG BOB, KALRISSIAN, INSPECTOR DOUBLE NEGATIVE, CHACHI HARLEM & MORET
SAT 1ST: "BRASIL" SOTAQUE BAIANO DJ RUEBEN & EDER
SUN 2ND: "KING OF KINGS" DJ'S SMOKE ONE & YOUNG FYAH
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Online

[illegible]

Ad Deadline

[illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File 1 449087

[illegible]

12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5/11

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement File 1 445472

The following individual is doing business as **Emeryville Sports Physical Therapy** [illegible]

Emeryville Sports Physical Therapy

12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5/11

Fictitious Business Name Statement File 1 448779

[illegible]

Blue Earth Consultants

12/15, 12/22, 12/29, 1/5/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

Light Seeker Photography

12/22, 12/29, 1/5, 1/12/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

12/22, 12/29, 1/5, 1/12/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

12/29, 1/5, 1/12, 1/19/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

12/22, 12/29, 1/5, 1/12/2011

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

[illegible]

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

12/22, 12/29, 1/5, 1/12/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

12/22, 12/29, 1/5, 1/12/2011

Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

[illegible]

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

[illegible]

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

[illegible]

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name Statement

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

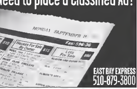
[illegible]

510-879-3800

Need to Publish a Legal Notice?

[illegible]

Trustee Sale No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT DATED [illegible] UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER On [illegible] at 12:00 PM., Allied Trustee Services, (Trustee) under and pursuant to Notice of Delinquent Assessment, recorded on [illegible] as Instrument [illegible] Book -- Page -- of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, property owned by: Lawrence J. Armstrong will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check/cash equivalent or other form of payment authorized by [illegible] (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) at: the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA all right, title and interest under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment in the property situated in said County, describing the land therein: A.P.N No. [illegible] The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 4033 Horton Street #116, Emeryville, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum due under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment, with interest thereon, as provided in said notice, advances, if any, estimated fees, charges, and expenses of the Trustee. The estimated total amount of the unpaid balance at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $11,101.09 property will be sold subject to the right of redemption. The claimant, The [illegible] Building Owners Association under said Notice of Delinquent Assessment heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Date: [illegible] Allied Trustee Services Noela Thornsberry Authorized Signature For Sales Information Please Call: (714) 573-1965 Allied Trustee Services 990 Reserve Drive, Suite 208, Roseville CA 95678 [illegible] 12/29, 1/5, 01/12/2011



TS # CA-10-371048-LL Order # 100472443-CA-BFI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/[illegible]/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): Justin Megill Guiley and Katherine J. Fleming Recorded: 06/03/2005 as Instrument No. [illegible] in book xxx, page xxx of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California; Date of Sale: 1/18/2011 at [illegible] PM Place of Sale: At the Fallon St. emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $34[illegible] The purported property address is: 5340 Park Ave 305 Emeryville, CA 94608 Assessor's Parcel No. 049-1035-139-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, please refer to the referenced legal description for property location. In the event no common address or common designation of the property is provided herein directions to the location of the property may be obtained within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale by sending a written request to CitiMortgage, Inc. 1111 Northpoint Drive Coppell TX 75019 Pursuant to California Civil Code §2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [1] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [2] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's Attorney. Date: Quality Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 714-573-1965 or Login to: www.priorityposting.com Reinstatement Line: 866-450-1571 Quality Loan Service, Corp. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. This notice is sent for the purpose of collecting a debt. This firm is attempting to collect a debt on behalf of the holder and owner of the note. Any information obtained by or provided to this firm or the creditor will be used for that purpose. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. P[illegible] 12/22, 12/29, 01/05/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 10-00177-US-CA YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 09/[illegible]/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, (cashier's check(s) must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation), drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: ESTHER C SPRIGGS, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN Duly Appointed Trustee: NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION Recorded 06/[illegible]/2006 as Instrument No. 2006[illegible] of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, Date of Sale: 01/19/2011 at 12:30 P.M. Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $417,[illegible] Street Address or other common designation of real property: 5676-5678 [illegible] BEAUDRY STREET EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 A.P.N.: 049-[illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The undersigned mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent for the mortgagee or beneficiary pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.5(b) declares that the mortgagee, beneficiary or the mortgagee's or beneficiary's authorized agent has either contacted the borrower or tried with due diligence to contact the borrower as required by California Civil Code 2923.5. Regarding the property that is the subject of this Notice of Sale, the "mortgage loan servicer" as defined in California Civil Code Section 2923.53(k)(3) declares that it has obtained from the Commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.53 and that the exemption is current and valid on the date this Notice of Sale is recorded. The timeframe for giving a Notice of Sale specified in Subdivision (a) Section 2923.52 does not apply to this Notice of Sale pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: 12/2[illegible]/2010 NATIONAL DEFAULT SERVICING CORPORATION 7720 N. 16th Street, Suite 300 Phoenix AZ 85020 phone 602-264-6101 Sales Line 714-[illegible] [illegible] TRUSTEE SALES REPRESENTATIVE ASAP# [illegible] 12/29/2010, 01/05/2011, 01/12/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 443[illegible]-CA Loan No. 30[illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 06-[illegible]-2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 01-06-2011 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 06-13-2007, Book, Page, Instrument 2007[illegible] of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: KAMI S BARNARD, A MARRIED MAN, as Trustor, WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: PARCEL ONE: AN UNDIVIDED [illegible] INTEREST AS TENANT IN COMMON IN AND TO LOT 1, PARCEL MAP 7767, FILED AUGUST 9, 2001, IN MAP BOOK [illegible], PAGES 1 AND 2, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING: ALL OF THE CONDOMINIUM UNITS AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN ("THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN") ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A" TO THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS OF [illegible] A COMMON INTEREST DEVELOPMENT ("THE DECLARATION") RECORDED JULY 27, 2005, SERIES NO. [illegible], OFFICIAL RECORDS AND RE-RECORDED SEPTEMBER [illegible], 2005, SERIES NO. [illegible] ALL OF THE EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREAS AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE; EASEMENTS FOR ENCROACHMENT, SUPPORT, OCCUPANCY AND USE AND FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS FROM THE COMMON AREA. PARCEL TWO: UNIT [illegible], AS SHOWN IN THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO IN PARCEL ONE ABOVE. PARCEL THREE: THE EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREAS DESIGNATED ON THE PLAN AS BALCONY, PATIO AND/OR STEPS, LANDING, PORCH WHICH BEARS THE SAME NUMBER AS THE UNIT NUMBER OF THE OWNER'S UNIT AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN. PARCEL FOUR: THE EXCLUSIVE USE COMMON AREA DESIGNATED ON THE PLAN AS PARKING SPACE NUMBER [illegible]. PARCEL FIVE: THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS AND USE AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL THE AREAS DESIGNATED AS COMMON AREAS AS SHOWN ON THE CONDOMINIUM PLAN REFERRED TO ABOVE AND AS DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION REFERRED TO ABOVE. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $[illegible] Street address and other common designation of the real property: [illegible] ST #[illegible] EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". DATE: [illegible]/2010 DECLARATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.54 Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.54, the undersigned loan servicer declares as follows: 1) It has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; and 2) The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or Section 2923.55. CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee [illegible] CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. DEBORAH BRIGNAC, VICE PRESIDENT 9200 OAKDALE AVE MAIL STOP N110612 CHATSWORTH, CA 91311 ASAP# [illegible] 12/15/2010, 12/22/2010, 12/29/2010

Trustee Sale No. [illegible]-CA Loan No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible]-CA-MAI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]-2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 01-05-2011 at 12:00 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded [illegible]-2007, Book, Page, Instrument [illegible], of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: [illegible], as Trustors, Washington Mutual Bank, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, [illegible] Deborah Brignac, Vice President 9200 Oakdale Ave Mail Stop N110612 Chatsworth, CA 91311 ASAP# [illegible] 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2010

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. : 20100015005171 Title Order No.: 100328933 FHA/VA/PMI No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 11/18/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 11/30/2004 as Instrument No. 2004527755 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: ELDRIDGE K DAVIS AND STEPHANIE T DAVIS, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 01/13/2011 TIME OF SALE: 12:30 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6441 ESSEX STREET, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: 016-1440-007 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $387,077.79. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES & POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.lpsasap.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 12/17/2010 NDEx West, L.L.C. 15000 Surveyor Boulevard, Suite 500 Addison, Texas 75001-9013 Telephone: (866) 795-1852 Telecopier: (972) 661-7800 ASAP# 3854709 12/22/2010, 12/29/2010, 01/05/2011

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 10-[illegible]-3 CA Loan No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible]-CA-MSI APN 049-1538-007-00 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED May 11, 2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On January 18, 2011 at 12:30 PM, at the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA, Fidelity Title Insurance Company as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on May 31, 2007 as Instrument No. 2007[illegible] of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, CA, executed by: ANTHONY GIANNANTI, A SINGLE PERSON, as Trustor, in favor of Wells Fargo Bank, NA as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVENUE #[illegible], EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining unpaid balance of the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust (together with any modifications thereto). The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $344,[illegible] (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. DATE: December 2[illegible], 2010 Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, Trustee 135 Main St., Ste. 1900, San Francisco, CA 94105 415-247-2450 By: Tamara Baron, Authorized Signature The undersigned mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent for the mortgagee or beneficiary pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.5(b) declares that the mortgagee, beneficiary or the mortgagee's or beneficiary's authorized agent has obtained an exemption from the state regulator that is current and valid and the additional 90 day period does not apply. This loan servicer has implemented a comprehensive loan modification program that meets the requirements of California section California Civil Code 2923.53. Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, as Agent for the [illegible] Civil Code section 2923.53(k)(3) By: Tamara Baron, Authorized Signature SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.fidelityasap.com AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-259-7850 ASAP# [illegible] 12/29/2010, 01/05/2011, 01/12/2011

SAVAGE LOVE

THREE'S NO CROWD

Two guys pine for threesomes.

By Dan Savage

I really need some help and comfort. I am a straight 25-year-old woman, and I've been dating my boyfriend for four years. I have never been the romantic type until I met him. At the beginning, we were purely sexual. We love role playing, and we always came up with crazy fantasies of me being fucked and used by multiple men, or some fantasy where others were involved. It was hot to me until I fell in love with him. Now the only thing that turns me on is him.

Even though he says he loves me, I cannot say he gets turned on by thinking of only me. We still continue these fantasies, but lately I'm seeing that every single time we are intimate, he always talks about things he wants other men (and women) to do to me or what he wants to do with others while I'm around. He never talks about a hot fantasy that involves only him and me. I drew the line when he started bringing my best friend into our role-playing. When I told him I would prefer if he not bring her into it, he ignored me and talked about her anyway. The last time I brought it up, he said he won't tell me his fantasies anymore and that he'll just tell me what I want to hear. He also said that by asking him to stop thinking of others, I am demeaning him and his sexuality.

I have done everything I can to please him. I have done things sexually that I swore I would never do because I trusted him. I guess my question is: am I demeaning him when I ask him to not bring up others in our role-playing every time we're intimate? It wouldn't bother me if it were once in a while. I wind up feeling unattractive and never good enough. What can I do to make him want only me?

Not Good Enough

Nothing.

He's never gonna want just you and only you, NGE. All that crazy, groupy, kinky shit that turned him on when you first got together — the shit that turned you on before you fell in love with him — still turns him on and will always turn him on.

Now, I know you're not doing it on purpose, NGE, and this is just how you feel, and feelings are sacrosanct lil' mysteries and there's nothing you can do about them, but I've never understood people who are up for anything with someone they're into — dirty talk, crazy sex, groups (real or imagined) — up until the moment they fall in love with that person.

Um... shouldn't falling in love, and the deepening feelings of trust and security that go along with that, open a couple up to new possibilities, new horizons, new sexual adventures?

And if falling in love with someone means the end of sexual adventure and fantasy and role-play — if falling in love means previously acceptable fantasies wind up on your partner's no-fly list — isn't that a huge disincentive to fall in love?

That said, NGE, your boyfriend should at the very least mix it the fuck up. Even if you were into groups — or still into groups, or still into thoughts of groups — hearing about groups each and every time you fuck would get pretty fucking tedious after four fucking years. And pressing ahead with annoying fantasies about specific people — your best friend, your mom, your boss — after you've asked him to stop is an asshole move. If he needs dirty talk to get off, he should find new dirty scenarios to explore, including some that involve you and only you, save the group fantasies for "once in a while," and leave your best friend out of it.

As for feeling unattractive, you should make him aware of your insecurities — if you haven't already — and he should be considerate enough to come through with regular reassurances about your attractiveness, his feelings for you, how hot he thinks your body is, etc., etc.

Finally, NGE, I want to emphasize again that there's nothing you can do to make him want you and only you. He is who he is, he's turned on by what turns him on, and you knew that when you fell in love with him. You have neither the right nor the power to reach into his erotic imagination and yank out the bits that conflict with your ideas of what sex is or should be when two people are in love.

I wouldn't go so far as to say that your attitude is demeaning, though. It's more delusional, perhaps, with a sprinkling of irrational jimmies. But not demeaning.

I am a 21-year-old male in a loving and committed relationship. The sex is great, the evenings together are great. It's a perfectly happy relationship except for this one thing: I can't get enough change. I want to be having sex with someone else. One girl is never going to be enough to make me happy.

I have asked her about the possibility of having a threesome. She said she would never go for that, not MMF or FFM, and she is utterly against it and always will be. But I NEED more. SOS fast. What do I do?

Coming Up More

You could stick it out, I suppose, in the hopes that true love has the opposite effect on your girlfriend than it did on NGE here, i.e., that once your girlfriend is crazy for you, CUM, she'll want to fuck shitloads of other people, and she'll give you the go-ahead to do the same. The odds of that happening, however, are close enough to nonexistent that I would be stripped of my professional accreditation if I advised you to live in hope.

Look, CUM: You're 21 and you're not ready to settle down — unsettle fanatic person — not yet anyway, maybe not ever. However lovely this girl is, however pleasant your evenings together are, you're not sexually compatible. There would be fewer divorces and less heartbreak if people were encouraged to view sexual incompatibility as the deal breaker it inevitably becomes over time.

Dump the nice girl, be single, fuck around, and keep your eyes peeled for a girl who wants what you want: change and all. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage

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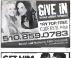
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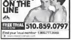
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